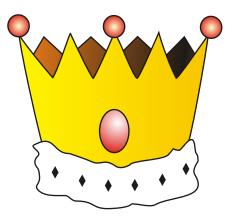
meet the king!

ten simple lessons from Marks gospel with a cool banner to make!



meet the king

by Phil and Louise Campbell





(c) Phil and Louise Campbell 2003

Introduction

It's here at last! If you've been waiting for the sequel to "The Bible In Ten Easy Lessons," otherwise known as "The King, the Snake and the Promise," this is it. Thanks to all those who have waited so patiently for what could have been called "Jesus in Ten Easy Lessons," but goes by the much more catchy title "Meet the King."

We've been hugely encouraged to hear about the usefulness of our previous lessons. Our ten week bible overview with its banner full of less-than-arty pics has made its way around the world.We've heard from the highlands of Papua New Guinea, we've seen it on video in a South African black township, we've bumped into the banner on church walls almost everywhere you can think of.

In "Meet the King" we've tried to follow the same formula - simple, ready to use lessons, a ten-week schema that catches the important threads, and a week by week banner that helps kids revise and remember what they've been learning. The banner is important... it's a great group activity, and gives a simple visual overview of where we're heading.

The banner - What you need to know

In this case, one thing you need to know is that the crown is the key! We're following the theme of "the authority of Jesus" which runs through Mark. That authority is demonstrated in various ways... and in each lesson, we add a little extra decoration to the crown, which makes up the final panel of the banner. You'll need to divide the banner space carefully so you don't run out of room as you fill in each lesson.

If you're planning to make a calico and felt banner, here's what you need...

- •Calico sheeting, 2.5 metres long x 30cm wide. (It won't matter if it's a little wider)
- •Coloured felt. If you buy two multi-colour packs 10"x12" pieces, you'll have plenty. The Cam Art and Technology website (http://www.camartech.com.au/ress/) has ordering information for everything you need. They sell at wholesale prices to church groups.
- •For the final lesson, you'll need sequins and glitter to add to the crown. There's plenty of inspiration on the Cam Art website.
- •Cutting patterns for black and white printing are provided at the end of the lessons. Shapes of each colour are arranged together, ready to cut from 10x12" felt sheets.

If you'd rather make a more temporary banner, you might like to try simply printing out the shapes on a colour inkjet printer, and cutting them out to make a paper version.



A final thought. Don't show the children the picture of the finished banner image week by week... keep it to yourself, and guide them as they try to work out what they're making. A little mystery adds to the fun.

The Stories

An effort has been made to write the stories in 'narrative English." That means they're in "spoken" rather than "written" style. Every now and then you'll find present tenses used where maybe you'd expect a past tense, or words like "And" and "But" opening sentences. There are lots of short, fairly repetitive sentences too. But that's typical of spoken English. If you're comfortable with the style, you should be able to read the stories straight from the page and still sound pretty natural.

Finally, thanks to those who have helped this material take shape over a number of years. Annette Gardiner and Matt Rowson have both made helpful contributions. Thanks especially to Matt for his help with the final revisions, and to Matt, Robert Thompson and Jo Campbell for proofreading!

Have fun! The Emu Music team have done a great job creating songs that are memorable, catchy, and lots of fun. We hope our lessons are the same, and give your family or your Sunday School class a helpful way to meet King Jesus as he's presented in Mark's gospel.

Phil and Louise Campbell Mitchelton Presbyterian Church www.mpc.org.au June 2003

click banner for full size image





Aim

To teach the children that Jesus has come as King. He is Ruler of all the world and we need to stop making our own rules, and make him our Ruler too.

Bible Focus

Mark 1:14-20

Songs

I'm Following the King Get Ready

Memory Verse

Mark 1:15 - Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news".

Materials

Calico Banner, pre-cut felt shapes for lesson I, glue, photocopies of work-sheets, coloured pencils etc.

Junior Activity

Today's lesson is about Following the King. Ask one of the children to be the leader. Spend a few minutes playing "Follow the Leader". Encourage the leader to change movements and directions so that those who are following have to turn and follow. After a few minutes sit the children down and ask what was involved in "Following the Leader"?

Senior Activity

Set up an outdoor "blindfold obstacle course" with chairs, tables and plastic cups of water arranged in a marked out area. Blindfold two children, and nominate one other as the "Director." The Director must give spoken instructions to steer their blindfolded team mates through the obstacle course, while the rest of the class calls out confusing instructions to make them crash into the obstacles. TAKE CARE that no obstacles create a risk of injury. Discuss the game. What were the benefits of listening carefully to the instructions of the "Director"? What happened if he/she was ignored, or other voices were listened to instead?

Story

Thought Starters

Have you ever seen a King or a Queen on TV? What is special about Kings and Queens? [Guide the discussion to issues of authority - if a King or Queen says to do something, it gets done! The King of a Kingdom is the RULER - and that means he makes the rules!]

When our Queen visits, everyone works very hard to get things ready. In one town she visited in Australia, they put fresh paint on all the buildings she would drive past just so everything would look nice! Not only that, they re-paved all the roads!

Well, today's story is about a royal person coming. It's about Jesus. It's a story first written down by a man named Mark, and you can find it in the part of the Bible called the New Testament. It's an exciting part of the Bible, and an important story, because it's one of the very first things Mark tells us about Jesus.

It all happened a long time ago. A long time before your grandparents. A long time before your grandparents grandparents. Even a long time before your grandparents grandparents grandparents. And it happened in a place called GALILEE. Galilee was part of the land called Israel, and it was a wild sort of place, with a desert with wild animals, and little towns, and a very salty sea. And that's where Jesus was.

Seems like a funny place for a King. But that's what Jesus was. In fact, he was the most important King ever - because he'd come from God. He was going to be the ruler of God's Kingdom. The trouble was, nobody knew that's who he was. He didn't look much like a King. He looked ordinary. And instead of being bossy, he cared for people and did things for them. But he was the most important King ever. And he was waiting for exactly the right time to start telling people and showing people who he really was.

So listen to what Jesus does. There's a big crowd of people; and Jesus gets up and makes a big announcement to them. Here's what he says. "Hey everyone, THE TIME HAS COME! You can stop waiting for God's King to come! The Kingdom of God is near, so REPENT... and BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS."

"Repent" means "stop going the way you're going and turn around." "Repent" means "stop ignoring God." "Repent" means "be sorry for the wrong way you've gone, and come back." "Repent" means "stop making your own rules... and make me your ruler instead." And the people Jesus was talking to had to make a big decision. They had to decide whether they'd listen to him and change the way they were living, and believe he was the one who God had sent to be their King. Or whether they'd just stay the way they were.

The sad thing is, most people like to be boss of their own lives, don't they? I know a lot of children like that, because when you're having fun or watching TV, and your mum wants you to tidy up your room, what do you say? You say, NO! I want to do what I want to do. I don't want anyone else bossing me around. I want to be my own King. I want to be boss of myself and I don't want anyone else telling me what to do.

But let me tell you about the very first people who decided to take notice of what Jesus was saying. They were fishermen. They had a fishing boat and nets, and they were about to go fishing when Jesus saw them on the beach and said to them, "Hey you guys! COME ON! FOLLOW ME!" He said "I'm going to make you into fishers of men!" Do you know what they did? They just dropped their nets on the sand, and they followed Jesus. They could tell he was important, just by the way he spoke. And if the King said follow, they knew they had to follow.

From that day on, they followed Jesus. As they watched him, and as they learnt from him, they started to understand more and more that Jesus was King and that they needed to trust him and obey him. Over the next few weeks we're going to see some of the amazing things Jesus says and does; and we'll learn why we should trust him and obey him as our King as well...

What About Me?

Ask: Do you know anyone who follows Jesus? Tell us about them. What do you think it might mean for us to live with Jesus as our King? [We need to obey him. We find out how he wants us to live in his word, the Bible.] How might you need to CHANGE how you are living to follow Jesus? (Remember REPENT means to STOP, TURN AROUND and GO the other way.)

Song - I'm Following the King

Introduce the song by reminding the kids that Jesus wants them to follow him too. Play *I'm following the King* from the CD as you display the words. Then teach the song, either with your own musicians, or with the backing track downloaded from <u>www.emu.mu</u>

I'm Following the King I'm following the King! I'm ready to obey, To listen to his word. Yes, Jesus is my King! I'm living now for him Cos Jesus is my King. I don't deserve his mercy I don't deserve his love And yet he died to save me -Died upon the cross!

I'm following the King! I'm ready to obey, To listen to his word. Yes, Jesus is my King! I'm living now for him 'Cos Jesus is the... Jesus is my... Jesus is the... KING! © 2003 Paul Sheely

Worksheets

Hand out the work-sheets. Suggest the children write down names of any people they know who follow Jesus. Ask them to say how they *know* these people are followers of Jesus. If your classes have mixed age groups, make sure older children are given a "senior worksheet" with the "Who Wants to be a Zillionaire" question (see below.) Take care! Option "C" says that "to repent" means you will "never do wrong again." It's important to understand that following Jesus does NOT mean we "never do wrong," but that we have stopped ignoring God and so will keep on battling against our sin.

WHO WAINTS TO BEALKAZILLONAIRE?



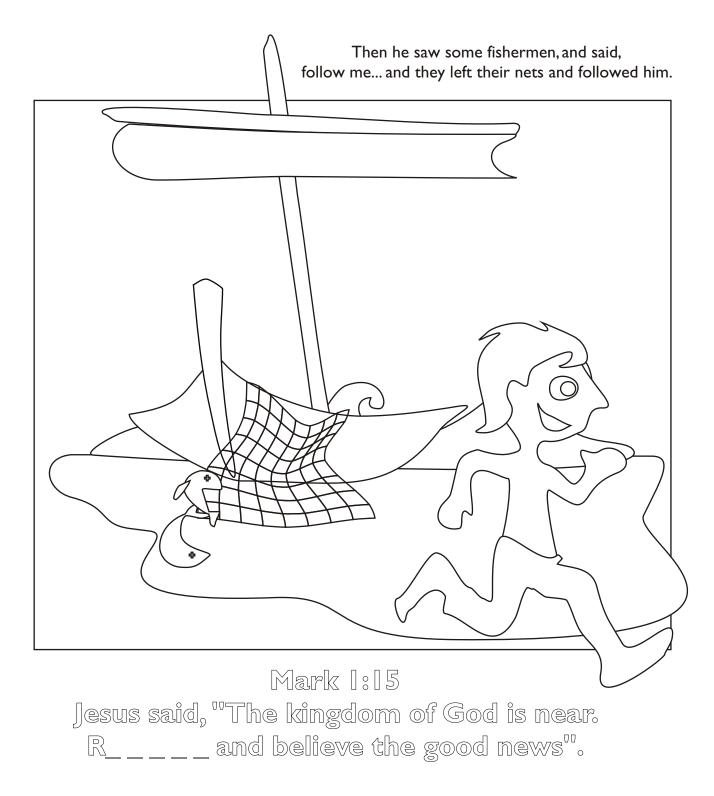
Banner

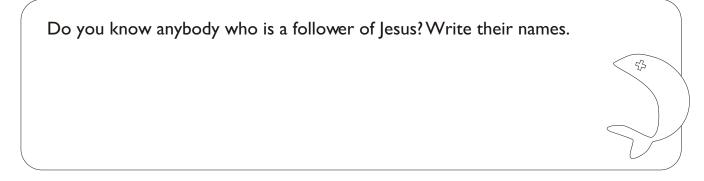
Assemble the first section of the banner, and explain to the children that each week a picture will be added to show what it means that Jesus is King. Each picture will be about something that happens in Mark's gospel in the Bible. Also, begin to assemble the Crown at the far end of the banner. (Each week, extra pieces will be added to the crown as the authority of Jesus becomes more and more evident.)

Prayer

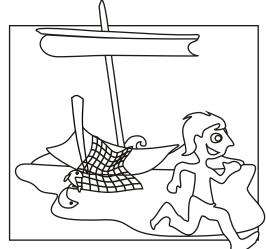
Thank God that he sent Jesus to be our King. Ask him to help you follow Jesus as King, by listening to his word, the Bible, and learning to obey him.

junior worksheet l





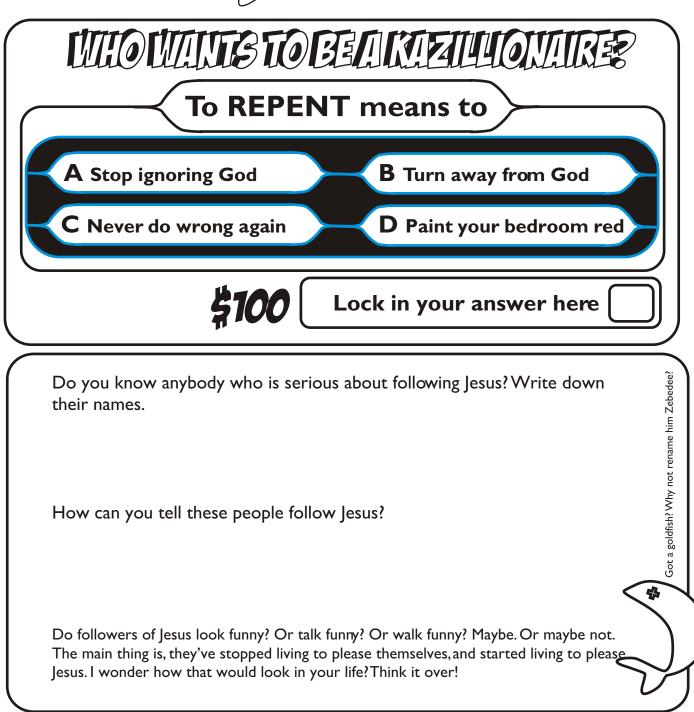
senior worksheet I



Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is near. Repent, and believe the good news"... then he saw some fishermen, and said,"Follow me"... and they left their nets and followed him.

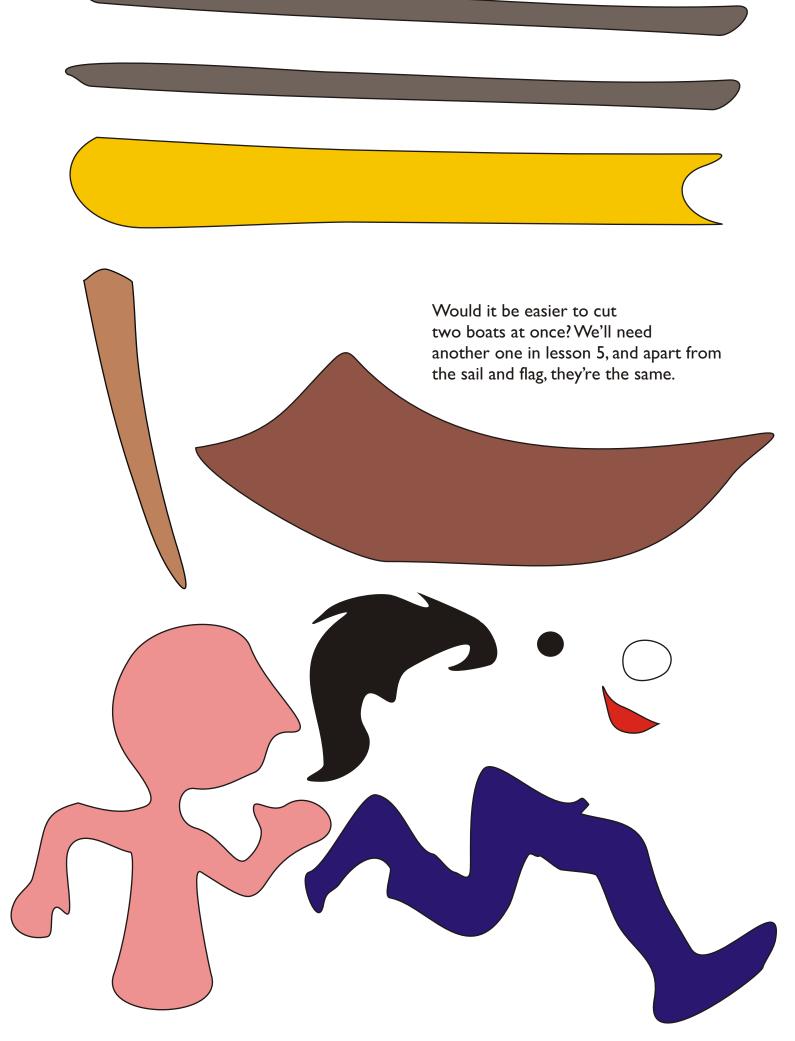
Read Mark 1:14-20 for yourself. What were the names of the four fishermen who first followed Jesus?

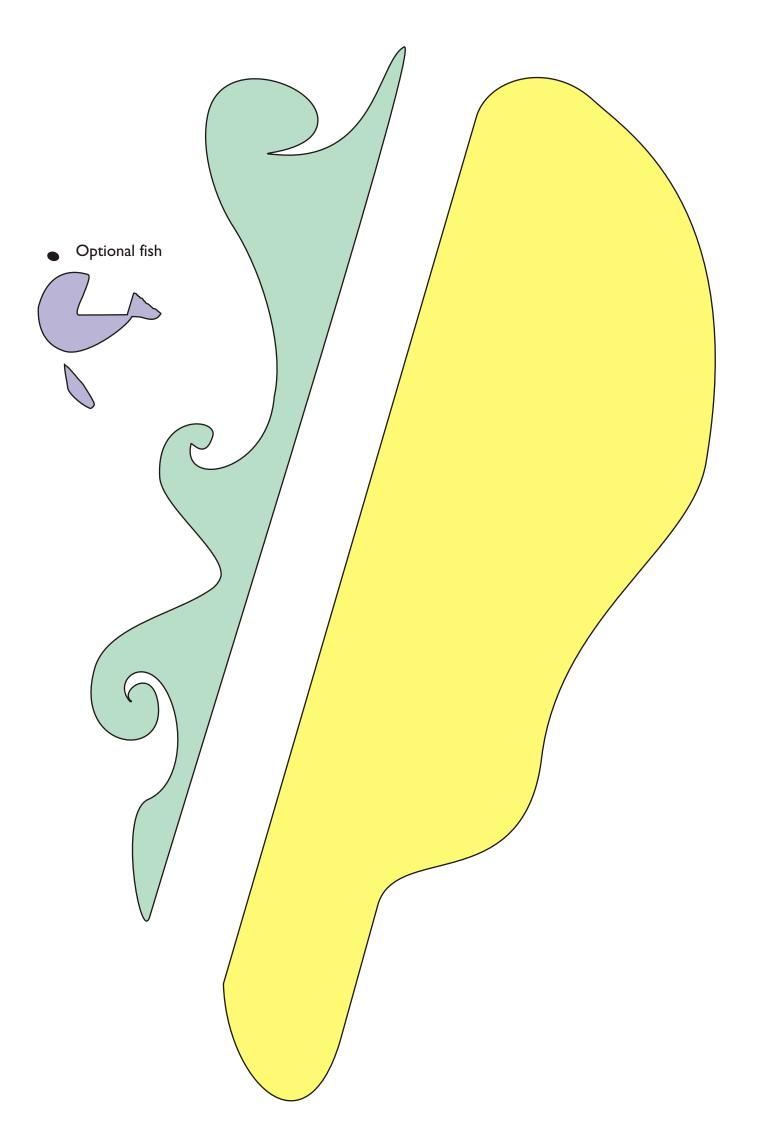
The dad of two of these guys had a cool name. What is it?

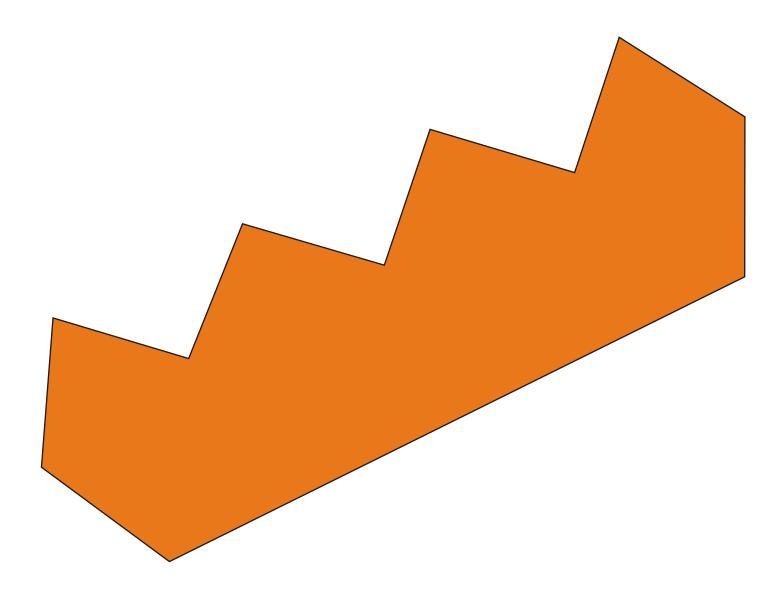




Final assembly about 70% full size. Cutting patterns on the following pages are full size. You may like to add a fishing net made from a hair net.

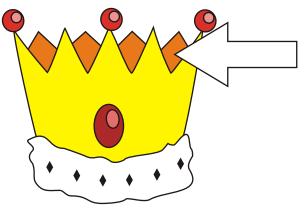






Build a crown!

Week by week, we'll be adding to the crown in the final panel of the banner. This first piece shows the back points of the crown, and will be overlaid with the front section next time. **Remember, the crown is taking shape in the final panel of the banner. Allow 250mm from the right hand end of the banner. Measure carefully!**





Aim

To show that Jesus has power over all things, that Jesus gives commands and things change, that Jesus can make the unclean become clean - and that Jesus can make us clean from our sin.

Bible Focus

Mark I:40-45.

Songs

Please make me Clean I'm following the King

Memory Verse:

Mark 1:41b - Jesus said, "I am willing. Be clean!"

Materials

Two small bells, red stick-on spots, worksheets, colouring pencils and pens, banner cut-outs for week three.

Activity

Choose two children to be "lepers." Stick red spots on their faces and hands. Give them the bells and tell them they are not allowed near anyone else in the room. If anyone comes near them they are to ring the bell and call out "Unclean! Unclean!" Encourage the other children to be doing fun things. After a few minutes sit down together and discuss what being separate feels like. Be sensitive to the fact that this may be a *reality* for some children in the group. Make sure the children you choose to be the "lepers" are socially confident.

Story

Most kids hate cleaning up their rooms. How about you? Wouldn't it be great if you could just say the words "BE CLEAN" and everything would suddenly be tidy and nice?

But there are other sorts of uncleanness that are worse than an untidy bedroom. In the days when Jesus was here, people who were sick with a skin disease called leprosy were treated very badly. Leprosy was a disease you could catch if you touched someone who had it, so people with leprosy were called UNCLEAN. And they had to leave their homes, and were shut out of the towns and had to live on their own. Nobody could touch them or even go near them. Imagine how terrible that would be.

Lucy was really sick one day. She had caught chicken pox off someone at school. Lucy was sad... not just because she was sick and had itchy spots all over her. She was sad because she had to stay in her room all day without anyone to talk to. She wasn't allowed to go to school or to church, she wasn't allowed to have any friends over, even her own brothers and sisters couldn't play with her because she might pass on the chicken pox to them too. Lucy felt very lonely being all on her own. Have you ever been so sick that people had to stay away from you so they couldn't catch it? It's not very nice is it! [Remember how that felt in the game?]

One day King Jesus met a man with leprosy. The man came to Jesus, and he fell down on his knees in front of Jesus and he begged. He'd heard a lot about Jesus. And he knew that whatever Jesus wanted to happen would happen. And so he got down on his sore knees, and he said this: "If you are willing, you can make me CLEAN!"

You know what happened? Well, the Bible says Jesus was full of sadness for the man. He knew what it

would have been like to be a leper. He knew that if you had leprosy you'd lose all the feeling in your fingers and toes and then your arms and your legs. You'd get horrible sores that wouldn't get better. So Jesus did an amazing thing. He reached out his hand and did what nobody ever did. He touched the man who had leprosy and said to him, "I AM WILLING - BE CLEAN!" Do you know what happened next? Straight away, the man was cured. The leprosy had gone. The sores were better, the white patches on his skin went away...and he was CLEAN! He could go home to his family again, he could see his friends again, he could get a job again and he could go to church again.

Well, when everyone heard what Jesus had done, there were crowds everywhere he went. Everyone wanted to see the King - the one who could just say the words "Be Clean", and you could be clean. The crowds were so big that Jesus couldn't go into a town anymore without being crowded with people wanting to see him. He had to stay out in the countryside, but still people from all over the place were looking for him and found him and made huge crowds around him. Wouldn't you want to see someone who could do the kind of amazing things Jesus could do? Wouldn't you love to hang around with someone like that?

What About Me?

Explain that in God's eyes, our sins make us unclean - a bit like the leper. We can't actually see what's wrong on the outside, but there's something wrong on the inside. And it's a problem that affects absolutely everyone! To be able to be one of God's children we need to be *made clean from our sin*. Jesus is willing to make us clean. We need to ask him to make us clean from our sins, and then we need to live like thankful, clean people. It's not as if we're suddenly 'perfect' - but once our sin is 'cleaned up' and forgiven, it no longer stops us from being one of God's children.We will still sin and let God down sometimes.When we do, we need to say sorry and ask Him to help us to change

Song - Please Make Me Clean

Introduce the song by explaining that Jesus had the power to make a man clean from a terrible disease, and he also has the power to make us clean from sin. Play the song *Please Make Me Clean* from the CD, displaying the words. Then teach the song, either with the backing track from the www.emu.mu website, or your own musicians.

Please Make Me Clean

A leper came to Jesus and asked to be made clean. He wanted to be healed from his real bad disease. Please, please, please Make me clean No one else can do it Lord Please make me clean

So Jesus touched the leper and said, "You are now clean". And all the people marvelled that He could heal disease. *chorus*

And we can come to Jesus and ask to be made clean. For Jesus has the power to wash away our sin *chorus*

Junior and Senior Worksheets:

Junior:Use red stick-on dots (or just colour the red dots) on the image of the leper before he was healed. Explain that leprosy didn't really give red spots, but it made you lose all the feeling in your fingers and toes. Senior: Find out more about leprosy from the leprosy mission website, <u>www.leprosymission.org</u> or the summary in the factbox on the next page. (Can you arrange Internet access in class time?)

Banner

Have the children work on the banner, playing the song *Please Make Me Clean* from the CD as you work. Add the third piece to the crown assembly in the final panel.

Prayer

Thank Jesus that he can make us clean from our sin. Ask him to make us clean, and to help us live "clean" lives.

Facts about Leprosy from www.leprosymission.org

Leprosy, or Hansen's Disease is neither hereditary or flesh eating - but in many countries of the world it is feared and patients are stigmatised. So what is it - and why the myths?

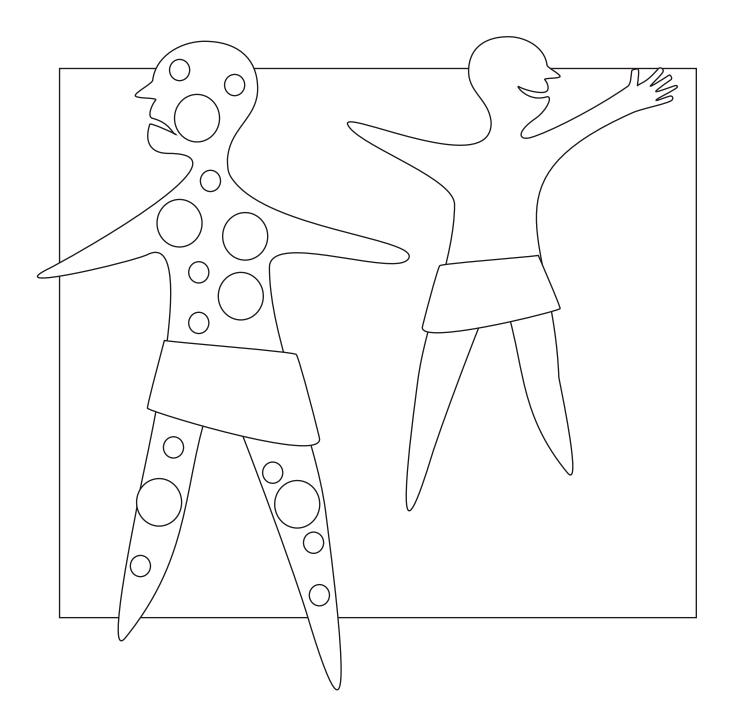
Leprosy is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria Mycobacterium leprae. Most people have a natural immunity to the disease, and those that do develop leprosy can be cured with modern MultidrugTherapy treatment (MDT).

The leprosy germ affects nerves which lie near the skin, and, untreated, this can lead to a loss of feeling in the affected parts of the body. Most at risk are the hands, feet, eyes and face. Because the person affected with the germ cannot feel, wounds or other injuries go unnoticed or untreated. Life-long care of non-feeling limbs is one of the greatest challenges faced by people affected by leprosy, and neglect can cause damage so severe as to cause partial paralysis, such as clawed fingers or lagophthalmos (an inability to blink, resulting in corneal ulcers, and, if untreated, blindness).



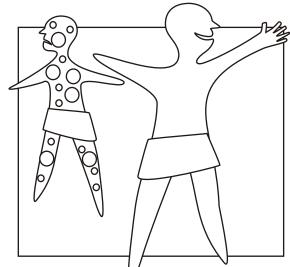
Worldwide, there are an estimated four million people affected by leprosy with over 800,000 new cases detected each year and over I million people are on active treatment. A further 2-3 million people are estimated to be living with continuing disability incurred through leprosy.

worksheet 2 - junior



Jesus said, "I am willing. Be clean!" Mark I:41

senior worksheet 2

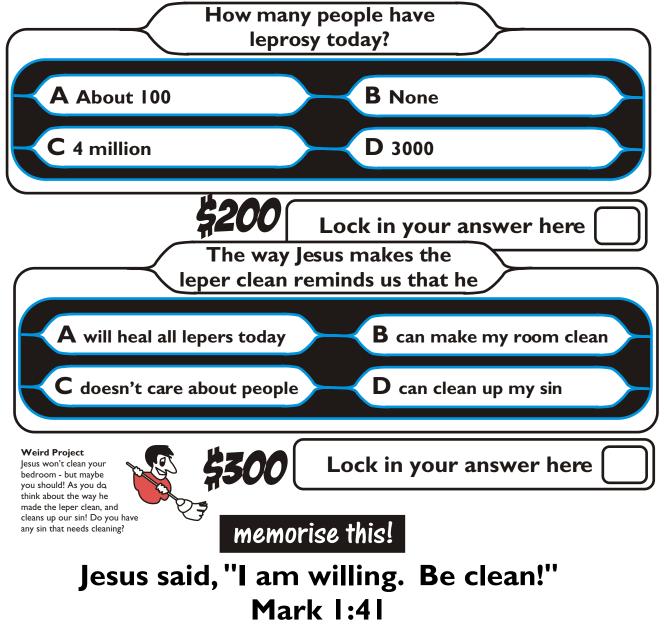


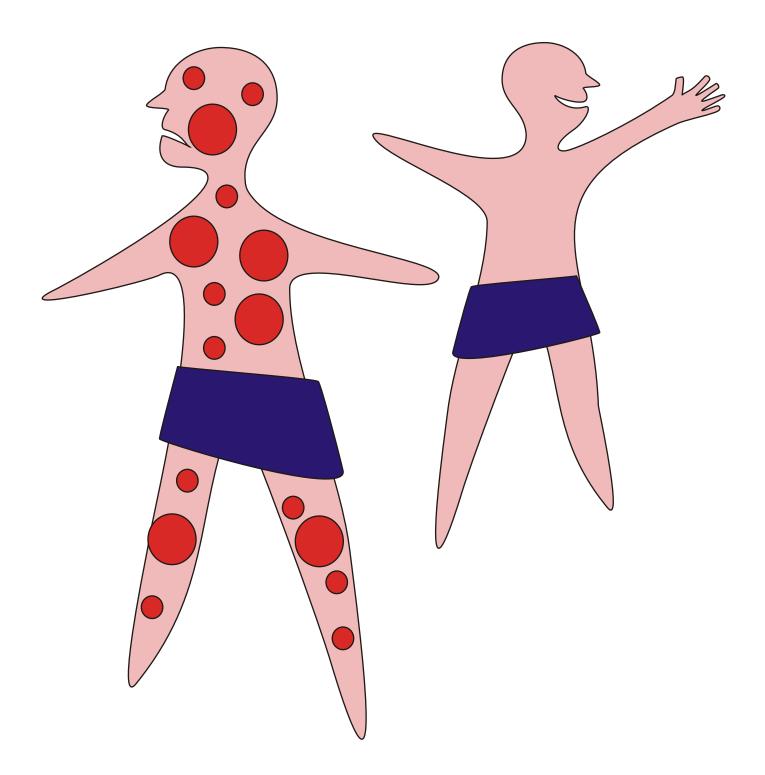
Read **Mark 1:40-45** for yourself. Jesus felt "*compassion*" for the man with leprosy. What does "compassion" actually feel like?

According to the laws of the Old Testament, when you touched someone who was "unclean" - like a leper - you became "unclean" yourself. What surprising thing happens when Jesus touches something "unclean"?

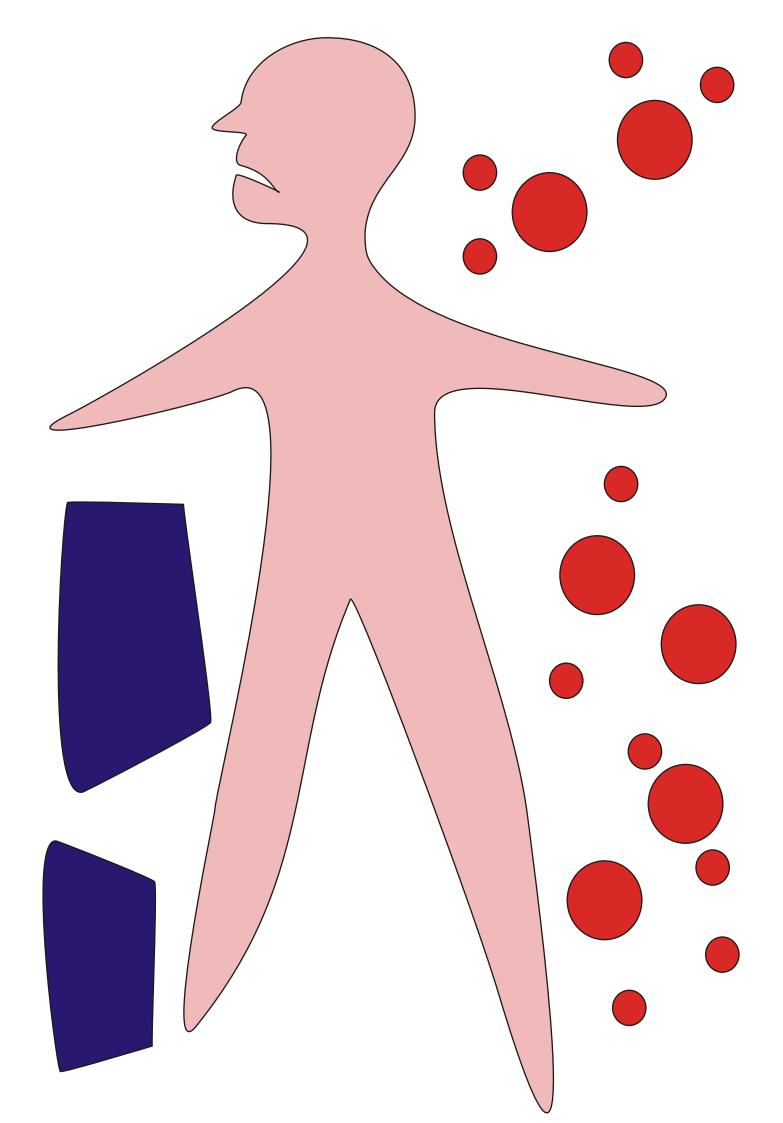
Take a look at **www.leprosymission.org** to see the great ways Christians are showing compassion for lepers today.

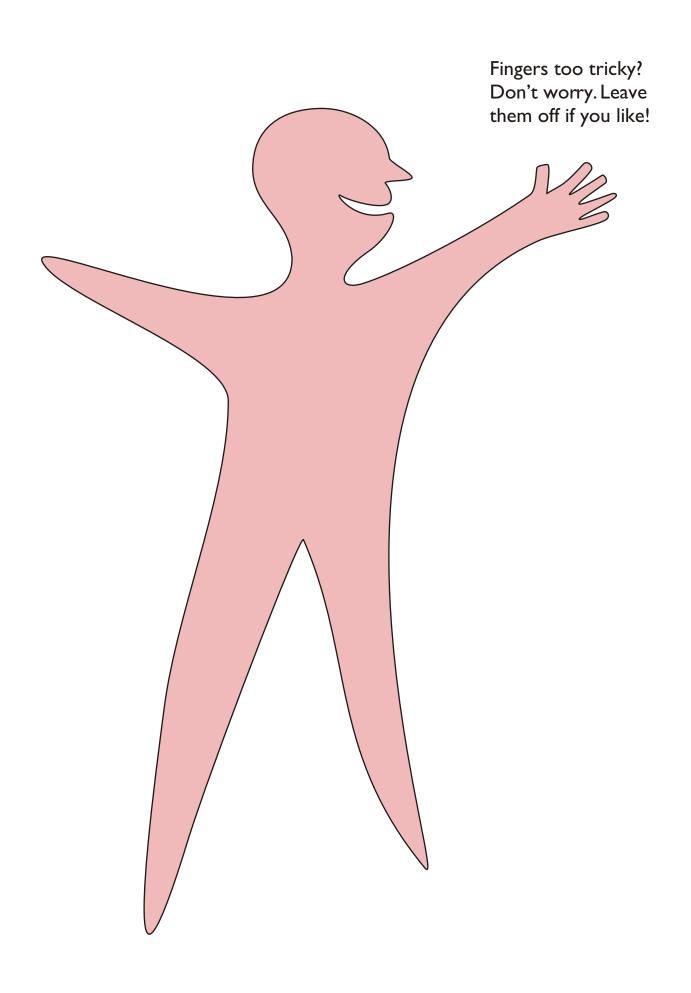
WHO WANTS TO BEAKIZILLONAIRE

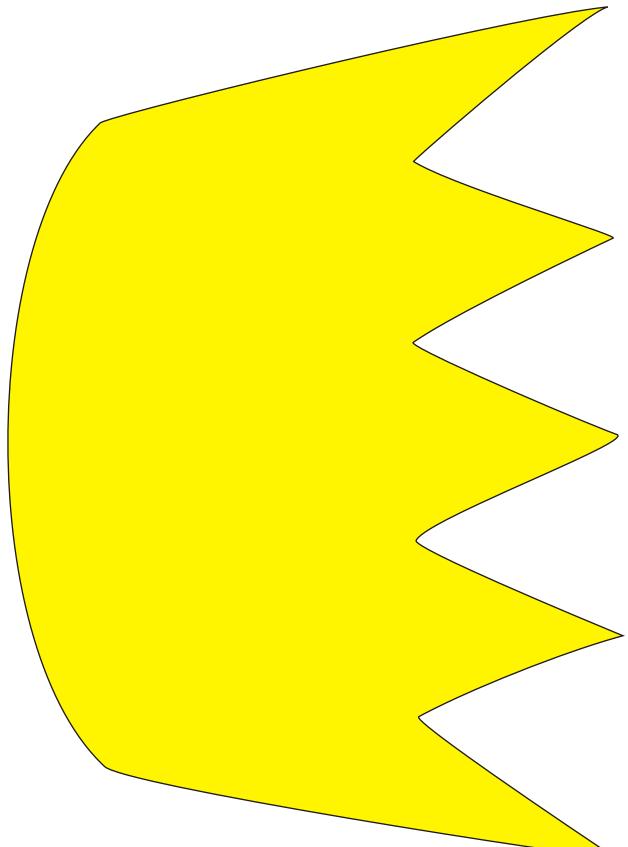




Final Assembly at about 70% full size. If you can get adhesive dots to stick on the felt, feel free to use them instead of cutting extra pieces. Full size patterns on following pages.

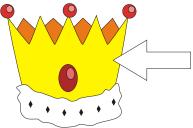






Build a crown!

Don't forget that week by week, we're be adding to the crown in the final panel of the banner. This second piece shows the front points of the crown, and is overlaid on the orange section which shows the back points. For dazzling effect, you could try using new "Flash Felt" which has a tinsel fleck.



3. Forgiving King

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Aim

To show that Jesus doesn't only have power over sickness - more importantly Jesus has power over sin. Jesus can forgive.

Bible Focus

Mark 2:1-12

Songs

He Must Be God

Memory Verse

Mark 2:5b - Jesus said, "Son your sins are forgiven!"

Activity

In today's lesson, a man who couldn't walk is carried to Jesus by his friends. Why not try a "Carry Your Friend" Relay? Divide the class into teams of 5. Mark out a start and finish line. Teams have to carefully carry one team member to the finish line. The person being carried is not allowed to touch the floor until they reach the end. Once they reach the finish line, a different team member is carried back to the start line (the person who *was* being carried is now a carrier as well). Repeat until everyone in the team has been carried.

Story

A few years ago, lan became a Christian. That means he became a follower of Jesus, and his sins were forgiven. lan's sister wasn't a Christian. Sometimes lan felt sad about his sister Jenny, because a long time ago she'd been in an accident, and she couldn't walk any more. Everywhere she went she

teacher tip

Try telling the story in the "present tense." For example, the sentence "And so many people *are coming* to him that the house *is* crowded and people *are* spilling out into the street" looks odd in print, but it makes the story seem much more vivid. As an interesting side issue, the original Greek version of Mark's gospel uses this technique!

had to go in a wheel chair. Ian used to think to himself, the best thing in the world would be if Jenny could walk again. And that was the only thing he wanted. But a funny thing happened after Ian became a follower of Jesus. He decided there was something else for Jenny that would be even better than being able to walk. And he started to pray for THAT instead of praying that she'd be able to walk. What do you think he prayed for her? [Allow some time for thought and discussion. We'll come back to the answer at the end of the story.]

One day King Jesus met a man who was paralysed like lan's sister. He met him in a very surprising way. Everywhere Jesus went, huge crowds of people would come to listen to his teaching. On this day he was back at his home at a place called Capernaum and so many people came to him that the house was crowded and people were spilling out into the street. Right at the back of the crowd was a little group of people who looked worried. One of them was paralysed, and he was lying on a bed. The other four were his friends, and they'd been carrying him. The thing they wanted most of all was to take him to Jesus because they knew Jesus could help. But how could they get through all the crowds of people?

Suddenly, one of the men had an idea. He saw the steps running up to the roof of the house. And he said to his friends, "Hey, come with me." So up they went, right onto the flat roof and they carried their paralysed friend on his mat. They put him down on the roof and started to dig. The house was made out of dried mud, so it wasn't hard to dig.

The people inside must have wondered what was happening. Bits of mud and dust were flying around everywhere. And when they'd finished making the hole, they lowered their paralysed friend down on his mat... right in front of Jesus.

Now here's where they got a big surprise. Because what do you think they wanted Jesus to do? Jesus looks at the man, and he could see how hard his friends had worked to get him there. And Jesus decided he'd do the best thing in the world for the man on the bed. He said to him, "Son, your *sins are forgiven*!"

Well, everyone got a real shock. Because they wanted Jesus to make him walk again. Some of the people watching got angry. They were thinking, "Who does this Jesus think he is talking like that. Only GOD can forgive sins." Jesus knew what was in their minds. So he said to them, "Okay, I'll prove I've got the authority to forgive sins. Watch this." Then he turned to the paralysed man again, and he said "Get up, pick up your bed and go home." Which is exactly what the man did. He jumped up off his bed, and he could walk. He picked up his bed mat, and he rolled it up, and he walked off in front of everybody. And they were all absolutely amazed. They said "We have never seen anything like this before!"

Something to Think About...

What do you think "sin" is? [Sin is ignoring God and disobeying him] What's more important - being forgiven by God for your sins, or being able to walk? Why? (Which lasts longer?) Why do you think Jesus could forgive sins?

Song - He Must Be God

Introduce the song by explaining that the people who grumbled about Jesus were kind of right. They said "Only God can forgive sins." Jesus proved he had God's power to make the man walk, and that he had the power to forgive sins as well. I wonder what that means about Jesus? Play the song "He Must Be God" on the CD, then teach it. (Remember, if you need backing tracks they're available for download from www.emu.mu)

He Must Be God I. Jesus healed a paralysed man who was brought to Him. Jesus healed him, so he could show: He forgives our sin. How cool is that! How cool is that! He told the man to pick up his mat He must be God If he did that, How cool is that!

2. Jesus calmed a terrible storm while he was at sea. Jesus calmed it, so he could say "Fear not, trust in me." How cool is that! How cool is that! He spoke a word - the waves went dead flat He must be God If he did that, How cool is that! 3. Jesus fed a very big crowd who'd no food to eat. Jesus fed them, so he could show He's all that we need. How cool is that! How cool is that! From all the bread you'd almost get fat He must be God If he did that, How cool is that! © 2002 bryson smith

Worksheet

If you think there's enough time, complete and colour the worksheets. Otherwise, send it home with the children as a reminder of the lesson, and move on to the banner.

Banner

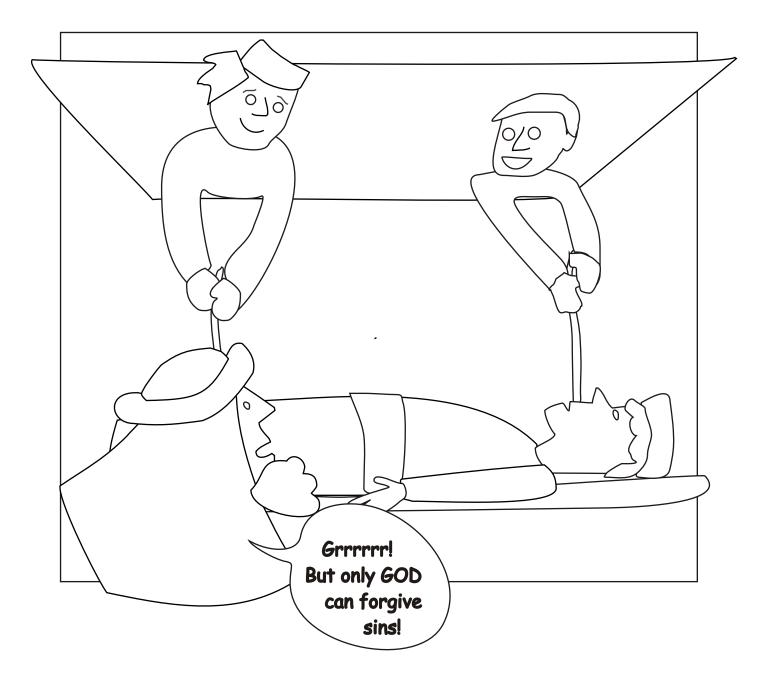
Work on the banner together, while listening to "He Must Be God" from the CD. Talk about how strange it must have seemed that Jesus said he could forgive sins. Add the next piece to the crown in the final panel.

Prayer

Thank Jesus that he can forgive our sins.

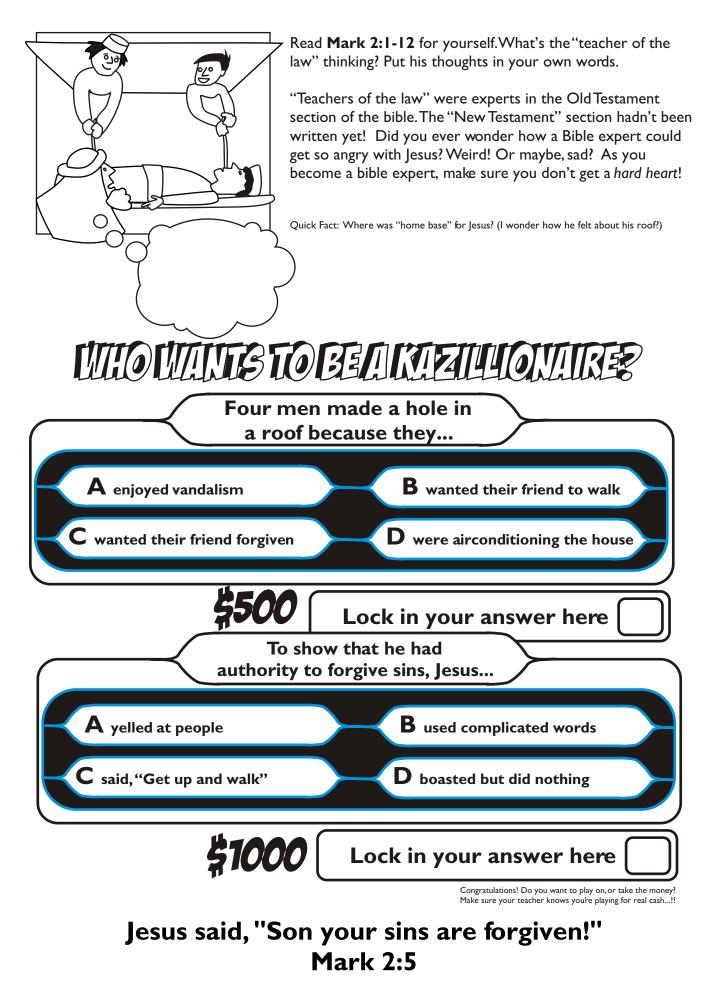
Ask God to help us not to sin, and to follow Jesus as our King instead (by trusting and obeying him).

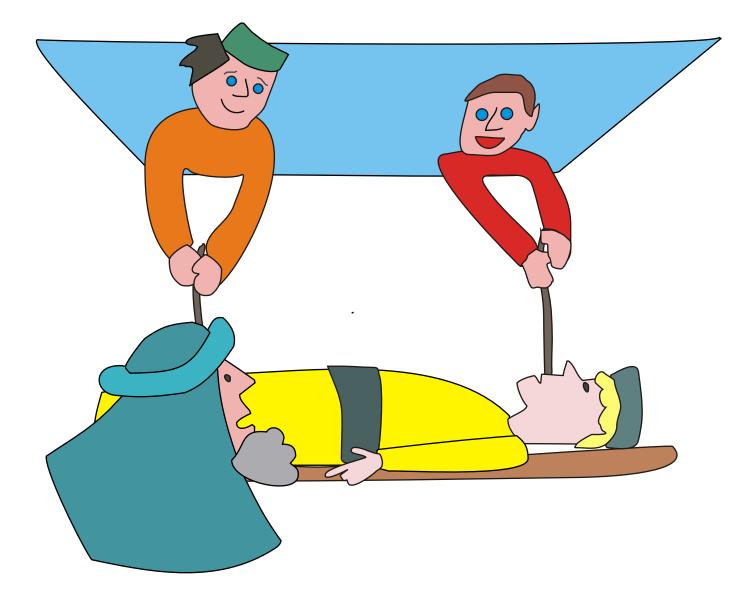
junior worksheet 3



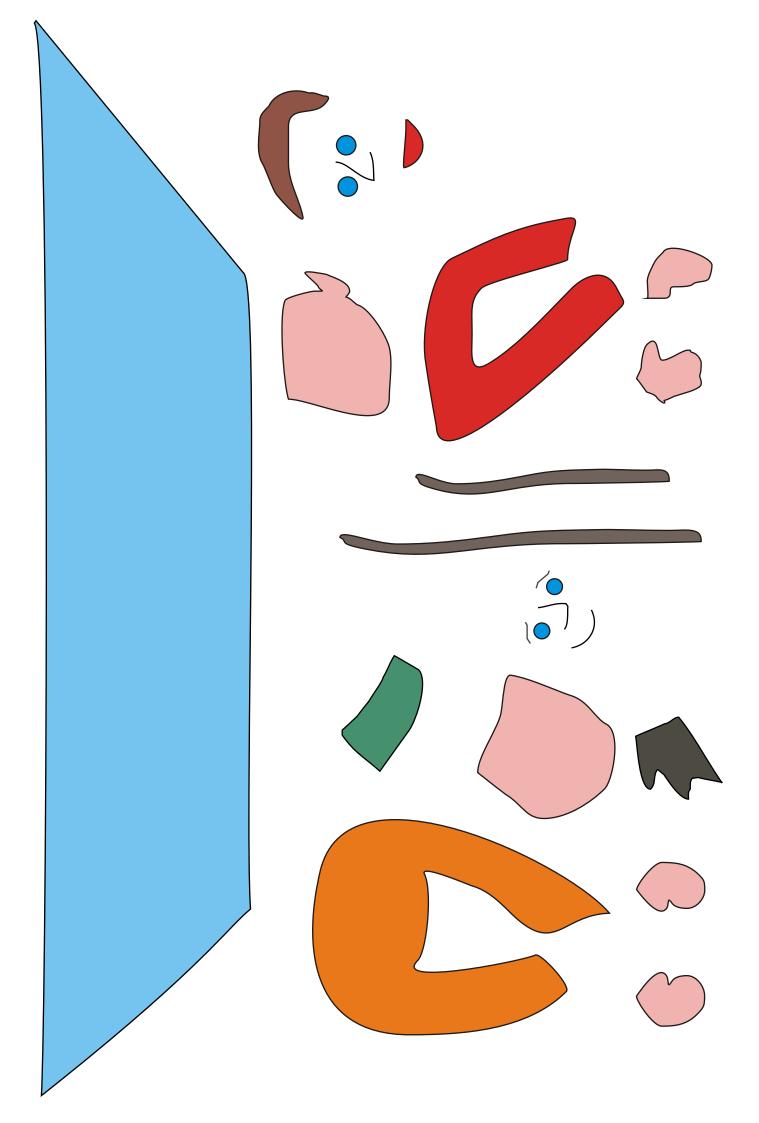
Jesus said, "Son your sins are forgiven!" Mark 2:5

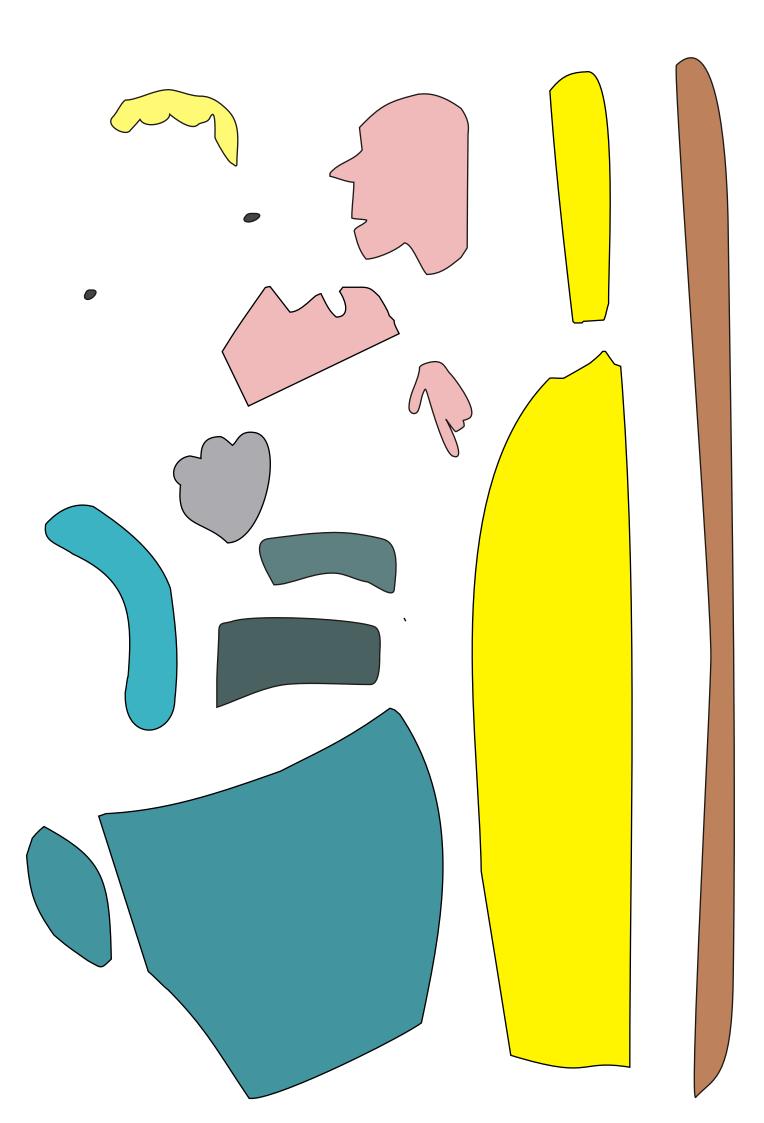
senior worksheet 3

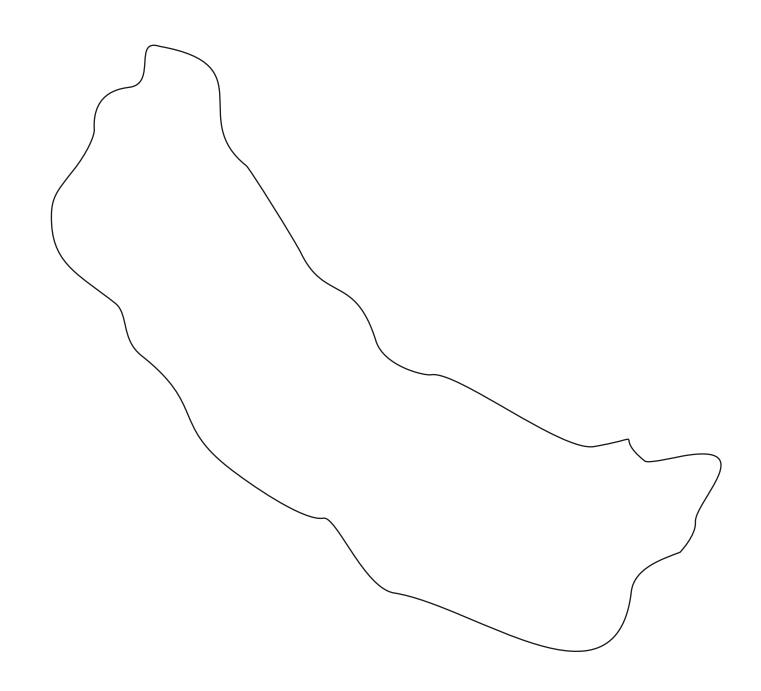




Finished assembly at around 60% full size. You may prefer to use wool or string for the ropes, and to draw features on the two top faces with a dark felt-tip pen. Full size patterns are on the following pages.

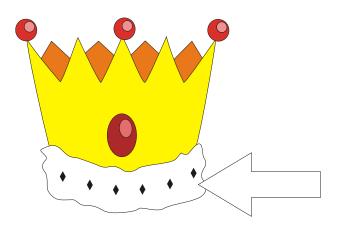






Build a crown!

Traditionally made from ermine, the fluffy bit around the base of our crown can be cut from white felt but you may prefer to add texture with cotton wool or some kind of furry fabric!



4. Hear the King

Aim

To teach that Jesus speaks with authority. Having Jesus as our king means listening to his words.

Bible Focus

Mark 4:1-20

Songs

Farmer Phil - for listening. Good Soil - to learn.

Memory Verse

Mark 4:20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop - thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.

Materials

Calico Banner, felt cut-outs; work-sheets, seeds to stick on. If you're adventurous, you may be able to preshoot some seeds in cotton wool. You'll also need strips of masking tape and coloured markers for the game.

Activity - Seed Planting Game

This is quite an active game! Divide the class into two teams at opposite ends of the room, with a table or chair at each end. Cut a large number of 3cm strips of masking tape - you'll need enough for about 5 or 6 per person. Mark each team's strips with a coloured marker (eg team I blue, team 2 red). Explain that the coloured strips are 'seeds,' and that the aim of the game is to plant seeds on members of the opposite team, while you avoid being "planted on" yourself. Start with each teams seeds attached lightly to the "home base" chair or table so they can easily pull them off. Each player can only carry one seed at a time and can only go back and get another seed once they've planted the first. When a seed is planted on you, you're not allowed to remove it, and you're not allowed to touch the seeds on the opposition base. After a couple of minutes, stop the game and count the seeds planted on each team. The winner is the team that planted the most! Return the seeds to the other team and play again - this time, though, (without announcing a rule change) make the best "soil" the winner rather than the best sowers! Play "The Ballad of Farmer Phil" as background music to set the scene for the story.

Story

Everyone in Israel was talking about Jesus. He did amazing things. And not only that, he SAID amazing things as well. When Jesus was speaking, people loved to come and hear him. But I wonder if they really loved to LISTEN? There's a difference, isn't there, between hearing, and listening. Does anyone know what it is? [Talk about it. You can hear sounds, or even words, without really taking any notice.]

One day Jesus told a story that was meant to remind people of the difference. It was a story with a secret in it. And the secret was the secret of his Kingdom! You can't be part of a Kingdom unless you listen to the King! If you want to imagine where Jesus is when he's telling the story, imagine in your minds a big lake with boats sailing on it. Imagine a big crowd of people crowding around the lake. Imagine Jesus in the middle of the crowd. Imagine the crowd is so crowdy and packed that Jesus has to get in a boat and float a little way out in the water so he didn't get crowded by the crowdy crowd. That's where he is, when he tells the story. And the story goes like this...

Jesus says LISTEN! Because listening is what the story is really all about. He says, there's a farmer. And it's time to plant his seeds. So he goes out with his big bag of seed that's hanging round his shoulder, and he starts throwing the seed on the ground. There's seed going everywhere! There's seed going on the path,

there's seed going on the rocks, there's seed going in the prickly thorny weedy patches, there's seed going in all the places you can think of. There's even some seed going where it should go... and that's in the nice soft deep dark dirt.

And here's what Jesus said. He said, "The seed that fell on the path got eaten by the birds. Just like that." He said, "The seed that fell in the rocks grew a little bit, because there was some dirt there. But when the sun came up, they shriveled up. Because they really had no roots. He said, the seed that fell in the thorns and weeds grew a bit at first too. But then the thorns grew up and choked the plants. And that was that. But the seed that fell on the good soil just grew and grew and grew. And so the farmer had a crop. And got thirty times more seed than he started with. Or maybe sixty times. In fact, maybe even a HUNDRED times more seed than he had at the start." Now here's a clue what the story is about. If you've got EARS, make sure you HEAR!

I wonder what he meant? His friends were wondering what he meant as well. His twelve closest friends, who were called the Disciples, came and asked him what he was talking about. "We've tried to figure it out," they said, "but we JUST DON'T GET IT!"

Jesus sounded surprised."How are you going to getANYTHING about the kingdom if you don't understand THIS story," said Jesus. It's the big secret. To be part of the Kingdom, you've got to listen to the KING! The seed in the story is the WORD.

So the farmer is sowing THE WORD. Can you figure it out now? [Let the children try to work through the details of the story substituting "word" for "seed"]

Here's how Jesus explains it. Some people are like the path.As soon as they hear about Jesus, it's as if Satan steals the words away, just like a bird snatching a seed. Something else comes along that's much more interesting than hearing about Jesus, and you think about that instead. It's the same with the rocky soil. Jesus says, "With some people, they'll listen to me at first, they'll even pay attention a bit. But they'll soon give up." And the prickle patch people? "They're the ones," says Jesus, "who let other things stop them listening to me. They'll want to get rich, or they'll be sad about something, and they'll think that's more important than paying attention to me." And so the little plant growing from the seed will be choked out and there'll be no crop."

But what about the good soil? "The good soil," says Jesus, "has a crop that grows and grows and grows. That's the people who hear what I'm saying and keep listening and listening and listening." They're the people who love to listen to their King... and to DO what he says. And that's the secret of being in the kingdom! I wonder what the disciples were thinking? Maybe they were scratching their heads and thinking, "Mmmm... I wonder what sort of soil WE ARE?"

What About Me?

Ask: What sort of soil do you think Jesus wants US to be? [That's easy, isn't it. Jesus wants us to be GOOD SOIL - which means listening to God's word, THE BIBLE.] I wonder if you should give yourself a little poke sometimes to check what sort of soil YOU are? We're going to learn a really good song that's about being GOOD SOIL. But as you sing it you'd better have a think about whether you really DO want to be good soil or not!

Song - Good Soil

Introduce the song by playing it from the CD as you display the words. Then teach the song, either with your own musicians, or with the backing track from www.emu.mu.

Good Soil	And let it grow in rows and rows and
l wanna be the good soil,	rows.
The stuff that makes great mud pies	
The stuff where all the plants grow,	Well, can you grow in thorns? Nuh-uh!
Way up until they're ten feet high	Well can you grow in stones? No way!
l wanna be the good soil,	Do you wanna be bird seed? Uh-uh!
The kind that's cool and squishy on	I wanna grow in rows and rows and
your toes,	rows
l wanna hear the word of God	©2003 Steve Crain
Can't find the backing track? It's at http://emu.mu/resources/files/Good%20Soil.mp3	

Worksheets

Hand out the junior work-sheets and some wheat grains or other seeds. Glue the grains to the picture. If you've pre-germinated some seeds, perhaps you can stick them (in their cotton wool) to the "growing" part of the picture... or, stick a wad of cotton wool to the page, damp it slightly, and add seeds. Help seniors find the bible passage, and discuss the "weird thought of the day" with them, referring to Mark 4 verse 11 and 12. Make sure you've thought through for yourself the fact that the parables are NOT intended to make things simple, but are instead to test whether listeners are listening!

Banner

Assemble this section of the banner. As you do, listen to *The Ballad of Farmer Phil* from the CD to revise the lesson.

Prayer

Ask God to help you follow Jesus as King by not just hearing about him, but really listening to the Bible, and obeying what our King says.

junior worksheet 4



Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.

Mark 4:20

senior worksheet 4

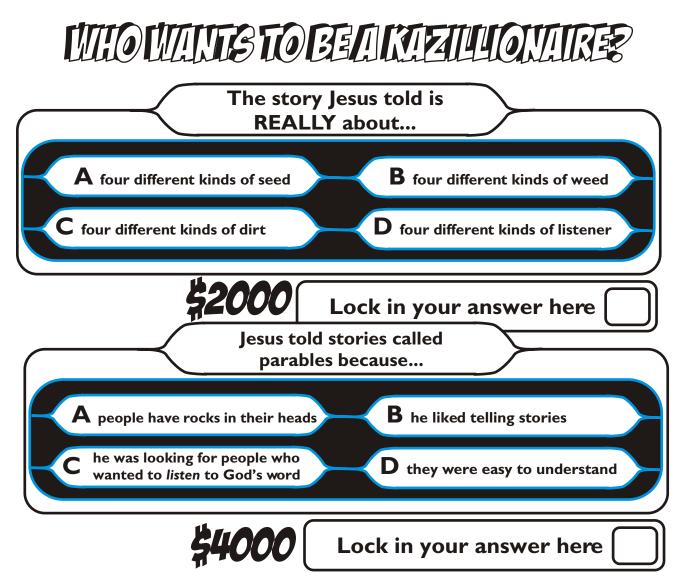


Read **Mark 4:1-20** for yourself. In verse 14, Jesus explains that the seed that he's talking about is really _____.

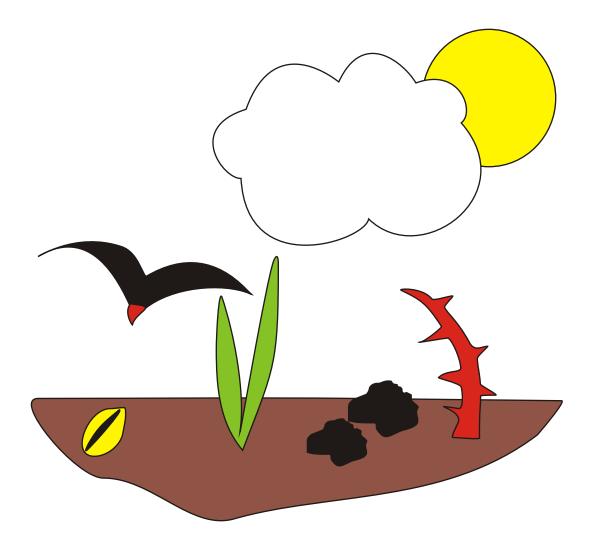
Can you think of times when God's word has been taught to you, but you haven't really paid attention? What sort of things have stopped you from listening?

What can you do about it?

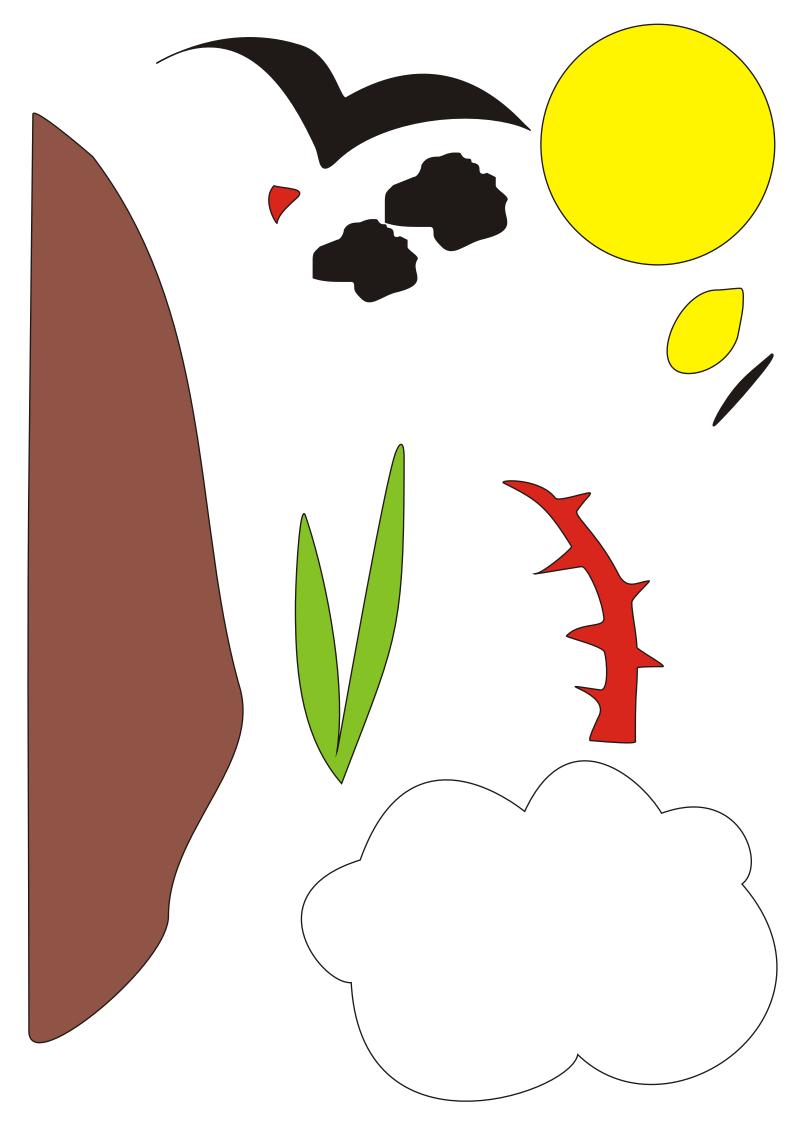
Weird thought for the day: Most people think Jesus taught in stories to be easier to understand. But he actually did it to be harder to understand! Parables are like riddles. They're also a test, to see if people are *really* listening. (Don't believe it? See Mark 4:11-12)

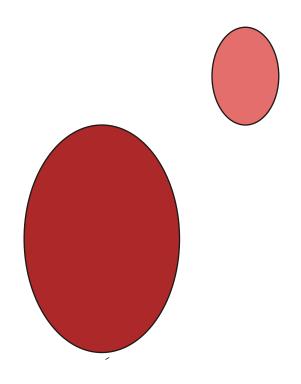


Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown. Mark 4:20



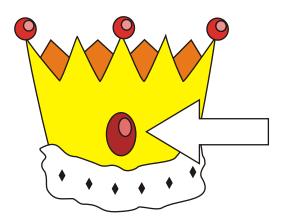
Finished assembly at around 60% full size. Full size patterns are on the following page.





Build a crown!

Let's add the first jewel to the crown. The lighter coloured piece represents the light sparkling on the jewel. Can you do better with a stick on plastic jewel? Be creative.





Aim

This lesson shows that just like God, Jesus is King over the world. The story of Jesus calming the storm shows Jesus is in control of the wind and the waves. Just as Jesus is in charge of the wind and waves in the Bible, he is also in charge of all of creation now, including you and me.

Bible Focus

Mark 4:35-41. For your own reflection in preparing this lesson, read Ps 107:23-29 and Colossians 1:15-16.

Songs

Songs relevant to this lesson are He Must Be God and Jesus Rose to Pray

Memory Verse

Mark 4:41 - "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!"

Materials

Felt cut-outs etc for the banner, copies of the worksheet, scissors and a large bed-sheet.

Activity

Get four children to hold the corners of the bed-sheet and shake it to make waves as if there is a storm. Ask the other children to make loud storm noises. Have one child try to stop the sheet moving without touching it, or touching the children waving it. Can they do it? Can they tell it to stop? How much harder would it be if the waves in the sheet were waves in the sea?

Story

Have you ever heard the weather reporter on the TV or radio say something like, "don't forget the umbrella tomorrow folks because it's going to be a wet one."? But the next day turns out to be fine without a single drop of rain. Or sometimes it's coming up to the weekend and they tell you "We've got a great weekend ahead with blue sunny skies." And the next day you wake up and your soccer match has been called off because it's raining! The weather reporters try and figure out what the weather's going to be like by looking at the clouds and the satellite photos and their computer programs. Sometimes they get it right, but lots of times they get it wrong. It's really hard to work out exactly what the weather's going to be like they could actually change the weather just with a few words! Someone who, instead of telling us what the weather might do, tells the *weather* what to do.And it does! Who could do something like that?

One day, Jesus was teaching people by the lake and so many people came to hear him that he had to climb into a boat and teach them while they stood along the edge of the water on the sand. He taught lots of amazing things, but then as the sun was going down he said to his disciples, "Let's sail over to the other side of the lake." So they said goodbye to the crowd, and started sailing to the other side.

But when they were about half way across, all of a sudden a huge storm blew up. [Ask the class to make some storm noises, and start speaking LOUDER.] The wind was so wild and the waves were so big that their little boat was being tossed around like a tin can, and it was filling up with water. The disciples were really scared because they knew that if the storm kept going, their boat would sink!

And yet while all this was happening, Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat on a nice comfy cushion. [Get more animated as you move the story into "present tense"!] His disciples rush over to him, and they wake him up and they say "Don't you care if we drown?" And they're terrified!

Jesus got up and did a crazy looking thing. I mean how do you think it would look if YOU tried it. Jesus stood up and he SPOKE to the wind and the waves. He said to them "Quiet! Be still!" And suddenly...

the wind died down and waves stopped. And it was completely calm. Then he turned to his disciples and said "Why are you so afraid? Why don't you trust me?"

Well, if you thought the disciples were scared while the storm was happening, they were even more scared now! They had never seen anything like this before. And they were asking each other, "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" [DISCUSS the question with the class. The disciples haven't worked it out yet... but Jesus is doing things that only GOD can do! No wonder it was scary!] Jesus showed that he has power over the whole world and everything in it! He could even tell the weather what to do! All he had to do was say a few simple words, and immediately the wind and the waves obeyed him. Jesus is the King over Creation. How cool is that!

What About Me?

In today's story Jesus showed how he is King over all of Creation. He can even tell the world, and the weather, what to do. As we look back at the banner we are starting to see different ways Jesus is King. What does it mean for Jesus to be King of the world God made? (If your class is familiar with the Genesis creation account, talk about how God created the world with a word, and now Jesus controls it in the same way.) What does it mean for Jesus to be King over you?

Song - He Must Be God

Introduce the song by explaining that in today's lesson we saw that the disciples are puzzled about who Jesus is. They say "Who is this"? He even has the power to tell the wind and the waves what to do! Our song tells us the answer. Jesus is King... and more than King! See if you can spot the answer.

He Must Be God

 I. Jesus healed a paralysed man who was brought to Him. Jesus healed him, so he could show: He forgives our sin. How cool is that! How cool is that! He told the man to pick up his mat He must be God If he did that, How cool is that! 	2. Jesus calmed a terrible storm while he was at sea. Jesus calmed it, so he could say "Fear not, trust in me." How cool is that! How cool is that! He spoke a word - the waves went dead flat He must be God If he did that, How cool is that!	3. Jesus fed a very big crowd who'd no food to eat. Jesus fed them, so he could show He's all that we need. How cool is that! How cool is that! From all the bread you'd almost get fat He must be God If he did that, How cool is that!
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Remember, backing tracks for all songs are available at www.emu.mu.

Worksheets

Carefully cut around the waves shapes at the bottom of the worksheet, and fold the page along the heavy line. Colour the boat, and colour both sides of the wave section. Fold the waves up to show the storm, and down to show the calm. The senior worksheet refers to Psalm 107, which offers fascinating Old Testament background to this amazing miracle. It would be helpful if you read the Psalm yourself before you lead this class! Be ready to discuss the connections between the Psalm and Mark's account of Jesus.

Banner

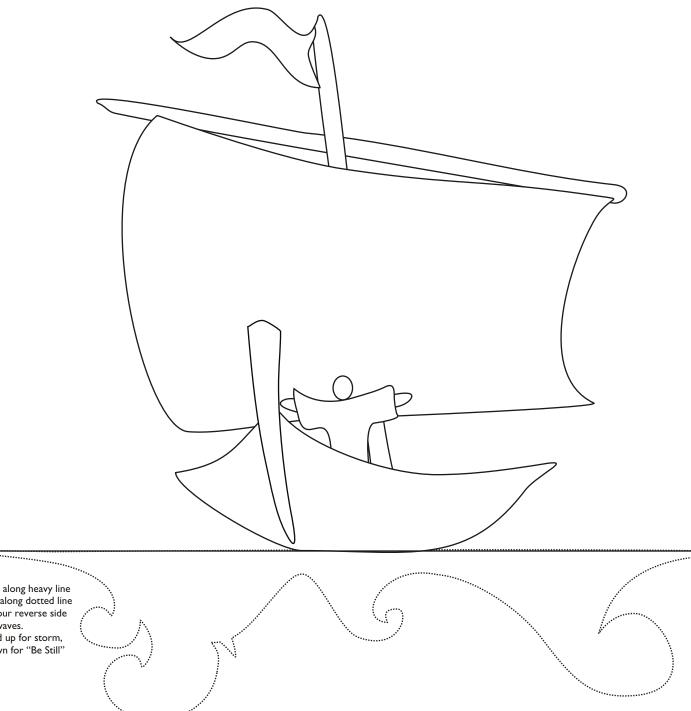
The banner picture is complex, but should be fun to assemble. Listen to the songs He Must Be God and Jesus Rose to Pray as you work together.

Prayer

Take some time to ask what things Jesus controls in their lives? What can they be thankful for, or what do they need to ask Jesus for help with?

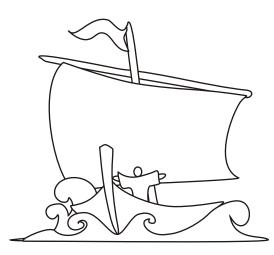
worksheet 5

"Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!" Mark 4:41



fold along heavy line cut along dotted line colour reverse side of waves. Fold up for storm, down for "Be Still"

senior worksheet 5



Read **Mark 4:35-41** for yourself. Be amazed. Be *very* amazed! Who on earth could do the things Jesus does?

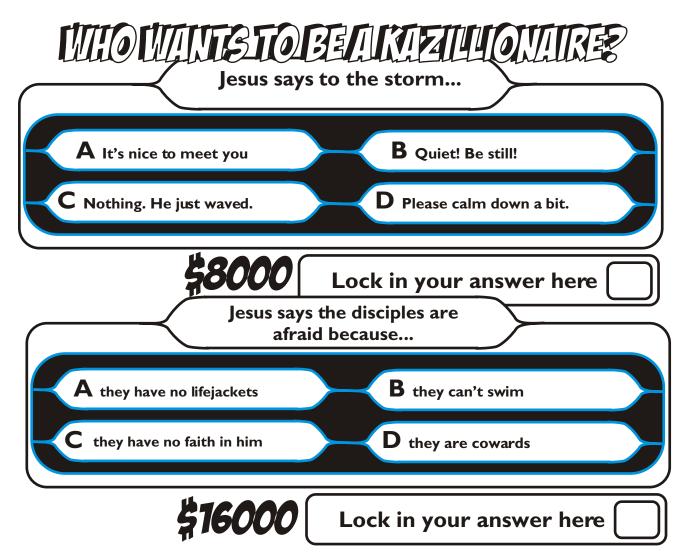
Take a look at how the disciples are feeling.

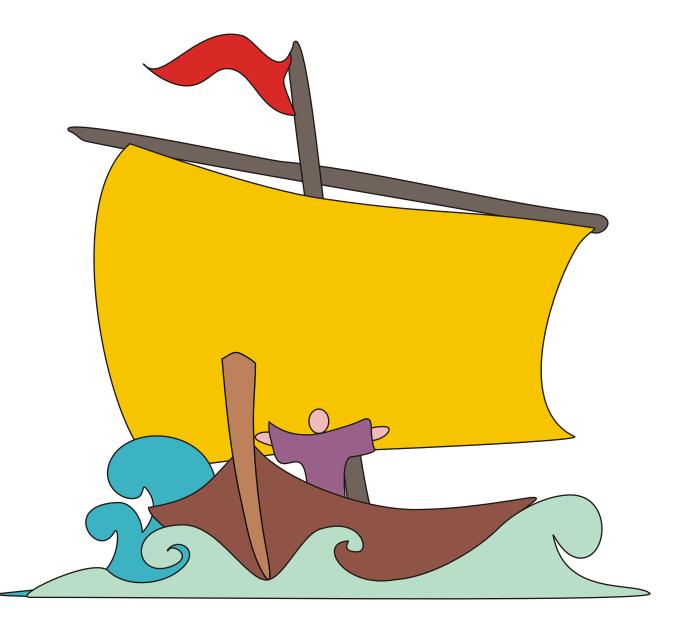
They go from being ______ to being ______ !!

What question are the disciples left with?

Psalm 107:23-29 tells another story of men in a ship in a storm. Read it. Remember that "The LORD" in Psalm 107 is God himself. If they thought of this Psalm, how would the disciples answer their own question about Jesus?

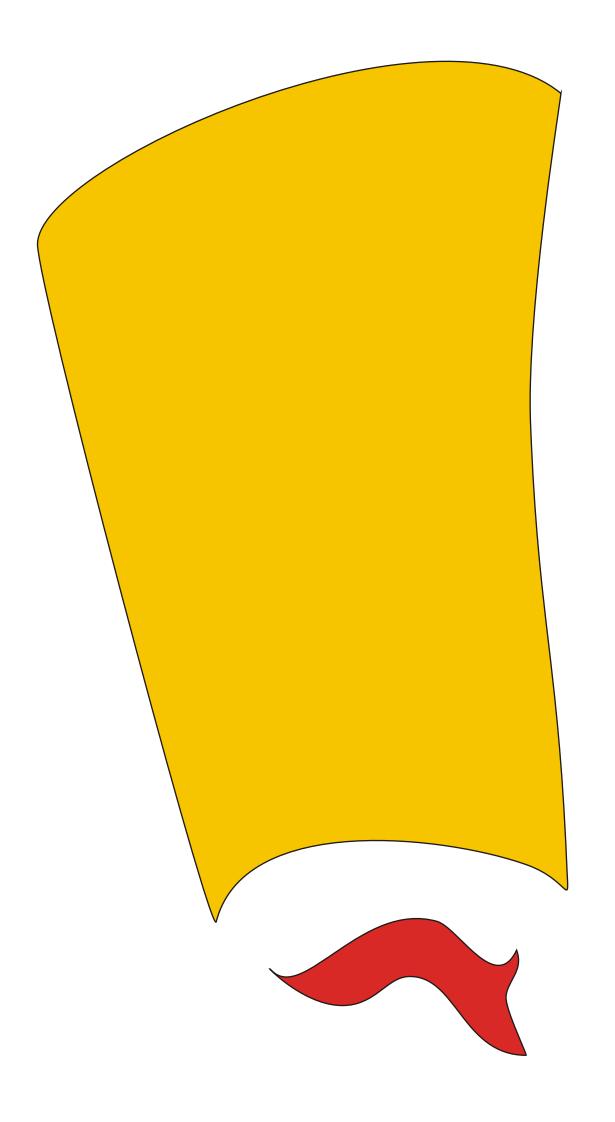
Weird experiment for the week: Sick of hearing "Don't try this at home?" (They say it on TV science shows all the time!) Now's your chance. Next time it's raining or windy weather, try telling the storm to stop. Stand tall, and shout into the breeze. Use your most powerful voice. Speak with authority. Does anything happen? What does your experiment tell you about the difference between Jesus and you? (Hint: Make sure nobody is watching your experiment... they may think you're a loony.)

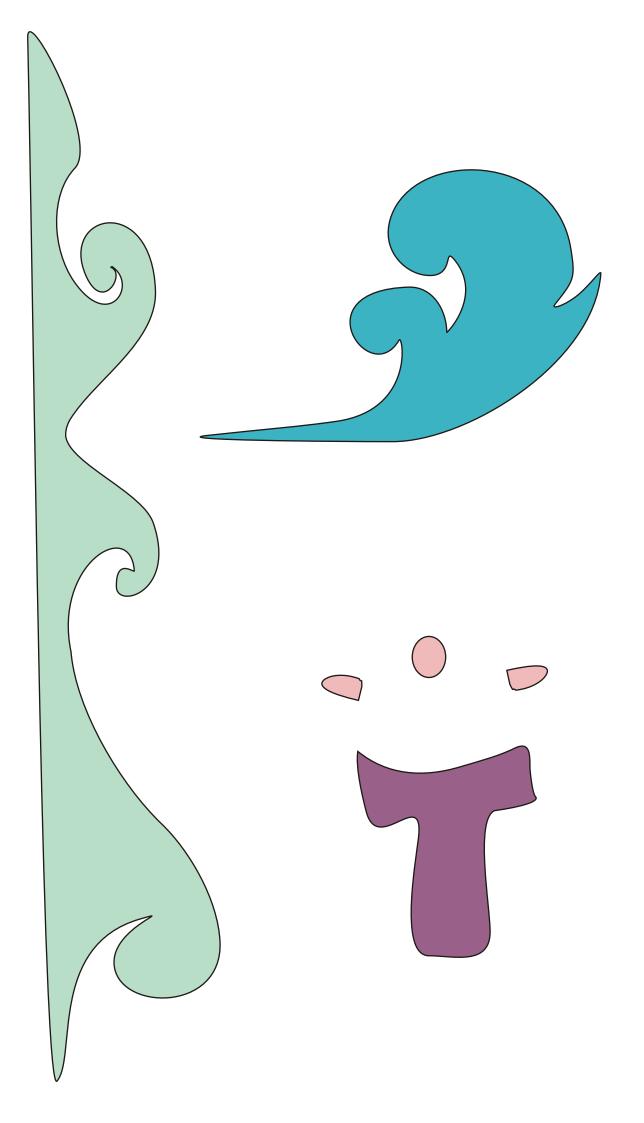


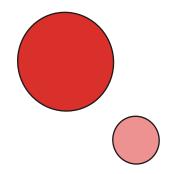


Final assembly, around 70% full size. Full size cutting patterns are on the following pages.

You may have already cut this piece in lesson I

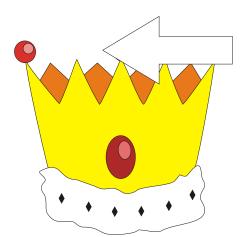




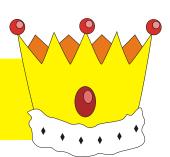


Build a crown!

Let's add the next jewel to the crown. The lighter coloured piece represents the light sparkling on the jewel. Again, can you do better with a stick on plastic jewel? Be creative.



Spot the King



Aim

To show that Jesus is the Christ, or "anointed King". Peter, one of the disciples, recognised him as *the Christ* and so must we.

Bible Focus

Mark 8:27-38

Songs Who Do You Say IAm

Memory Verse

Mark 8:29 - Jesus asked them, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." (Note: Some Bible versions may use the term "Messiah" instead of "Christ." Messiah is the Hebrew term for God's anointed one. Christ is the Greek equivalent. Only explain at this point if you really need to!)

Materials

Felt cut-outs and glue for banner, worksheets.

Activity

Ask the children to tell you all the interesting things they know about you. (What you look like, what you do, where you live, what you like for dinner, what things you can do that are special etc). Work out how long they have known you and how much they actually know. Lead on from here to talk about how long Jesus' disciples had been with him and how much they knew about him. Give suggestions from the last few weeks. What did they really know?

Story

Have you ever met someone who can never find things in the kitchen, even if they're right under their nose? Most Dads are like that. They can be looking for a can opener, and it's right on the kitchen bench in front of them but at first they don't even see it. When they finally do see it, they can't believe it. It's like they've been blind and now they can see! It was there all the time, staring them in the face, but they just didn't see it. I guess we can be like that with people sometimes, can't we. There might be really obvious things about them that we don't even notice, or just don't understand.

And that's how it was with the disciples of Jesus. They've been with him for quite a long time - around three years. They've seen him do all sorts of amazing things. They've seen him healing people with all sorts of illnesses. When he talked, everyone listened, because they could tell he spoke with authority. They've even seen him forgiving sins. They've seen him calm the wind and the waves... and they were saying, "Who is this... that even the wind and the waves do what he says."

If you saw someone doing things like that, it would make you wonder too, wouldn't it? All around the country, people were talking about him. They'd talk about him at the markets. They'd say, "Who do you think this Jesus really is?" "Oh, I don't know, maybe he's another one of these prophets who say they've got messages from God." They'd talk about him when they were having dinner. Kids would say, "Hey dad, what do you think about Jesus. I reckon he's really cool." And Dad would say, "I reckon he's the great prophet Elijah, come back from the dead." Everyone was talking about him.

One day Jesus and his disciples were walking along the road. They were near a town called Caesarea Philippi, and Jesus asked them a question. He asked them, "What are people saying? Who do people think that I am?" And they told him. "Some people say you're John the Baptist or the great prophet Elijah come back from the dead. Other people think you're another one of the prophets. Everyone's talking about you. And nobody can figure it out!" "But what about YOU?", said Jesus. "Who do YOU say that I am?" Mmm. Tough question. They've been with him for three years. And they've been watching him. And they've been listening. But until now, they hadn't worked it out. But finally, Peter got it! And he spoke up. It was like he'd been looking for something in the kitchen that was right under his nose, and he'd finally seen it. Peter said to him, "I know who you are! You're the CHRIST!"

The word *Christ* had a very special meaning. It sounds funny, but it means "*the one who has had oil put on his head.*" In the old days (and even these days!) when someone was going to be made King, they'd have a ceremony and tip special oil on his head. Putting oil on the head of a new ruler is called ANOINTING and it happens just before the crown goes on. (Our Queen was anointed with special oil made from musk.) Peter has finally worked out that Jesus is the one who God has sent to be the KING - he's the anointed one, who is about to be crowned as King over everything and everybody. It took Peter a long time to work it out - but he'd finally got there. Now Peter and the other disciples know that Jesus is King!

Peter has finally seen it! But he's still got some big things to learn. He thinks being King means Jesus will boss people around and sit on a royal throne. But Jesus tells him that a REAL King is a King who will give up his life for his people. And that's exactly what Jesus is going to do. But we'll see more of that in the next few lessons!

What About Me?

So far, we've seen Jesus doing things that only God could do. Peter finally realised that's because Jesus is the King of God's Kingdom. We can make Jesus our King too, by asking him to forgive us, then by trusting him and obeying him in everything we do. But how do we know what King Jesus wants us to do and how he wants us to live? [We find out by reading his word, the Bible. We talk to Jesus by praying.] How can you use your hands to serve Jesus? What about your mouth? What about your feet? [Think of different practical ways for the children to be godly in the way they speak and act.]

Song

Introduce Who Do You Say IAm? by explaining that everyone was trying to work out who Jesus was. They were coming up with lots of different answers, until Peter finally realized he was God's chosen, anointed King - which is what the words "Messiah" and "Christ" both mean. As usual, you can grab backing music from www.emu.mu...

Who Do You Say IAm? Breaking bread and feeding thousands With a word the blind can see Speaking truth with strength and wisdom Setting broken people free Who do you say I am? Who do you say I am? You are the Messiah, the Christ, the chosen King.

Yet this Son of Man must suffer At the hands of foolish men He will die in shame and darkness Three days later, rise again © 2003 Nicky Chiswell

Worksheet

Work through the "Detective Pete" sheet with the older children, helping them find the key bible references in Mark. Juniors have a simplified version.

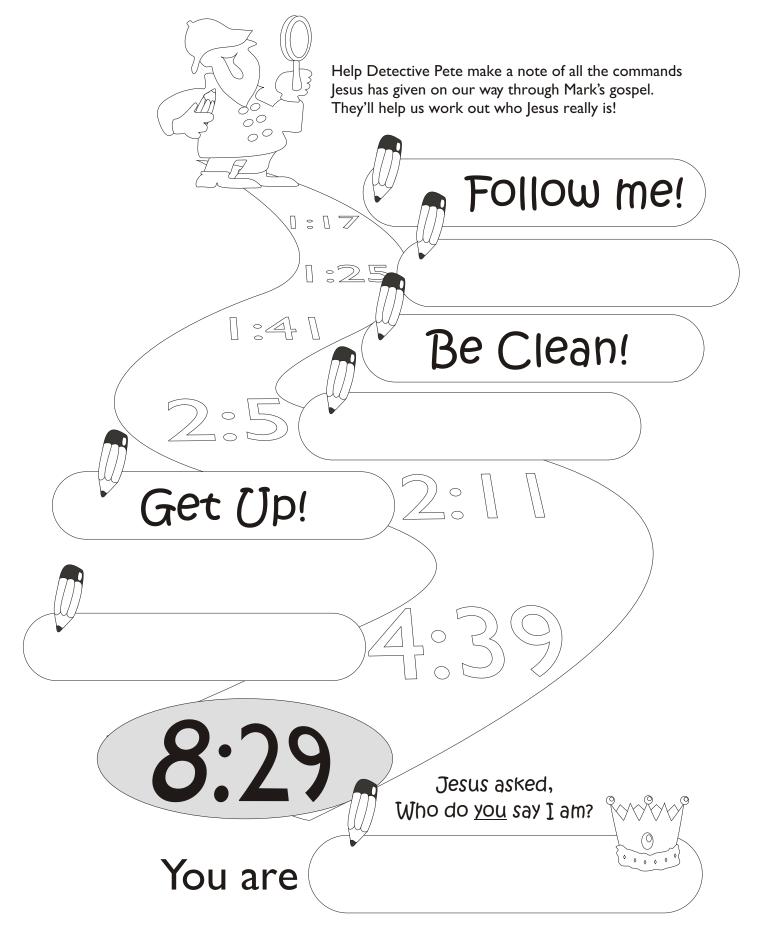
Banner

Look through each of the previous banner pictures, and revise with the children, showing how Peter came to his conclusion that Jesus was "the Christ."

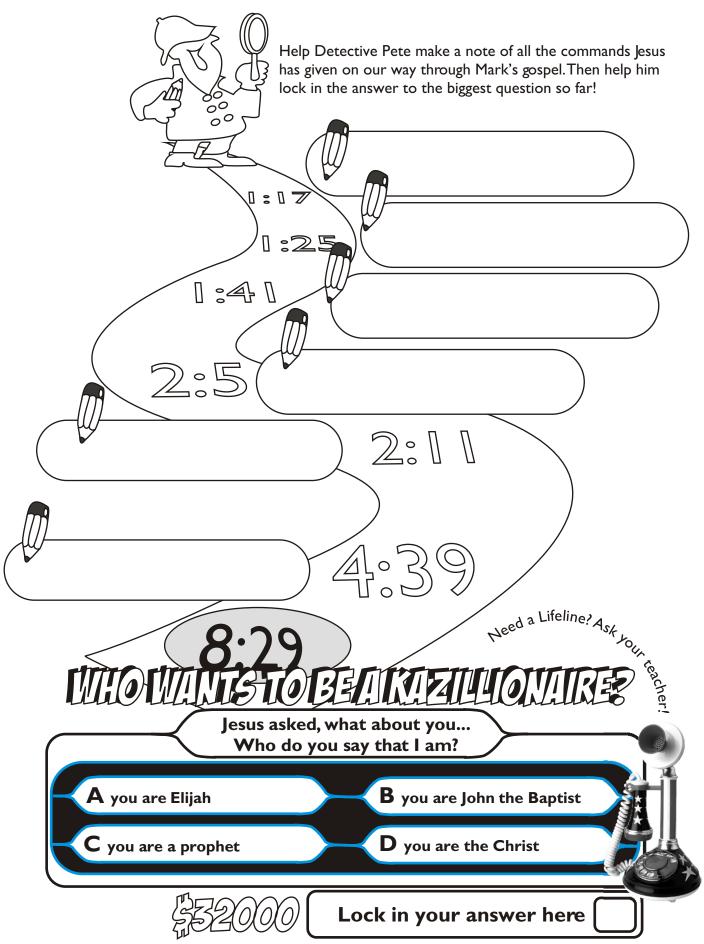
Prayer

Give thanks that Jesus is Christ. Pray that we will follow Him as our King and serve Him well.

junior worksheet 6



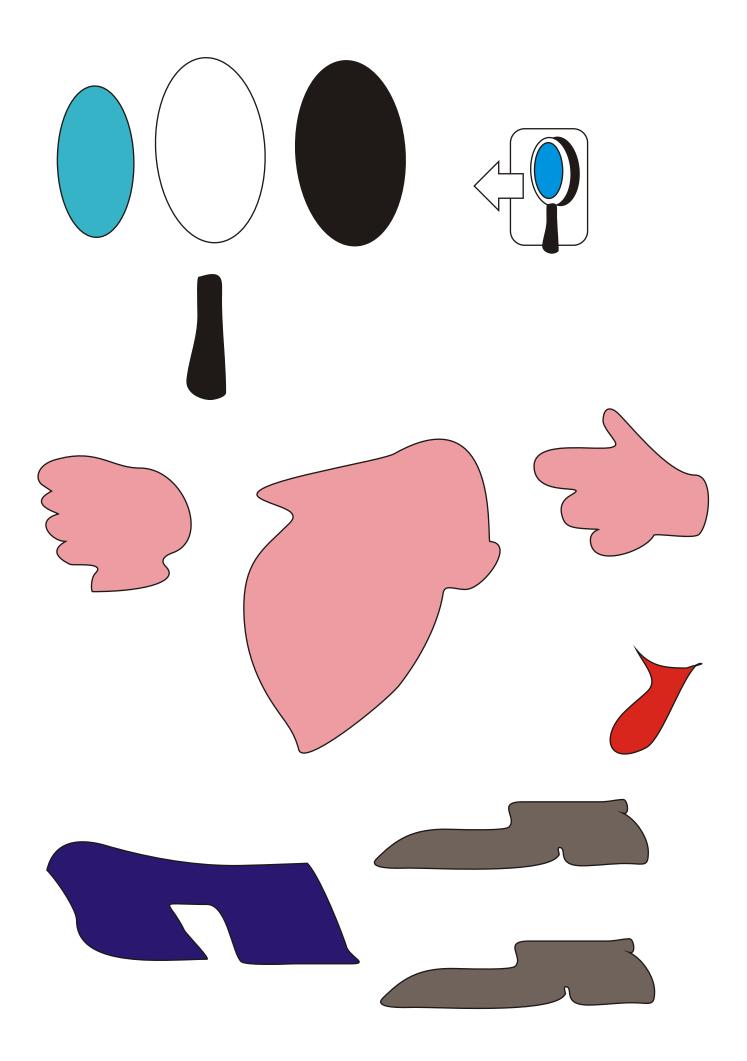
senior worksheet 6

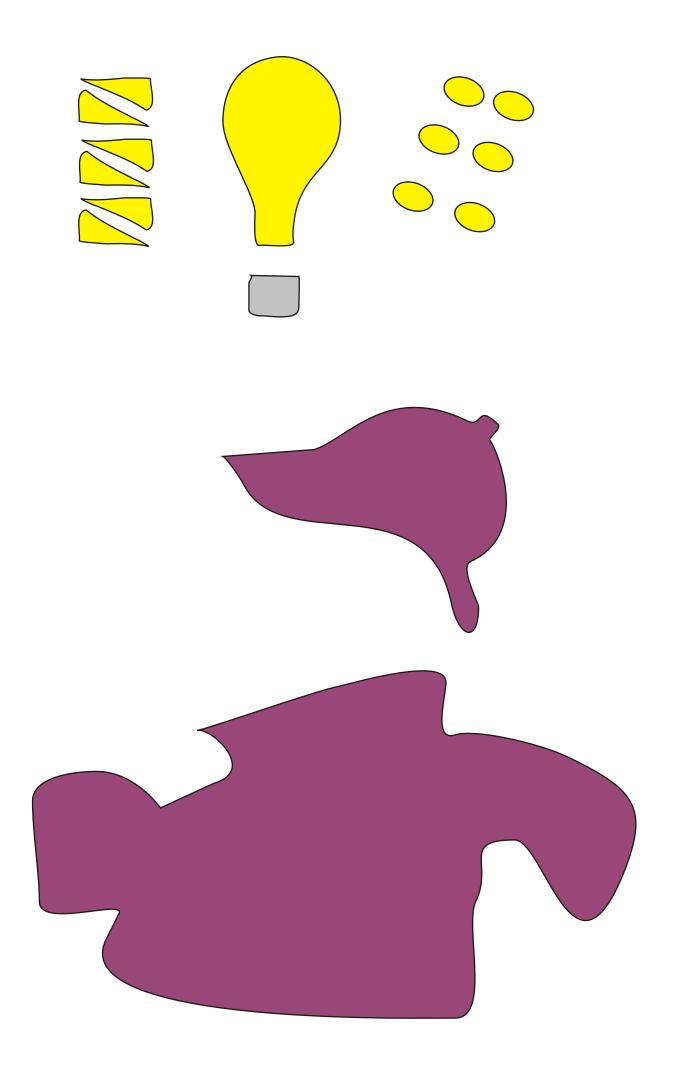


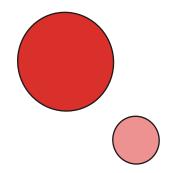
Fantastic! When you get to \$32000, you're safe. No matter what happens from here on, you get to take it home. (Check that your teacher has got the cash!) But that's not the end of the game. Peter still has some serious thinking to do. He thinks being the Christ will be a fun job. He's dead wrong. Read, and think about, Mark 8:27-38. If he's so great, why on earth would The Christ have to suffer and die? That's the million dollar question!



Final assembly, around 70% full size. Full size cutting patterns are on the following pages.

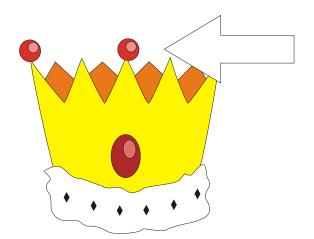






Build a crown!

Let's add the next jewel to the crown. The lighter coloured piece represents the light sparkling on the jewel. Again, can you do better with a stick on plastic jewel? Be creative.



7.Which Kingdom?

Aim

To show that following Jesus means making him the most important part of our lives.

Bible Focus

Mark 10:17-23

Song

The BlokeWith Everything

Memory Verse

Jesus said to him, "Go and sell everything you have and give the money to the poor, and then you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me." Mark 10:21

Activity

Give the children a piece of paper each and tell them to draw a picture of something that is very important to them. It might be something like a football, a computer, a favourite toy, even mum or dad! Ask for volunteers to show their picture in front of the group and explain why it is very important to them.

Materials

Magazines with advertisements of things that will appeal to children (or printouts of the "treasure" clipart page for each child), plus scissors and glue, for use with the junior worksheet.

Story

Sarah loved playing netball. She trained twice a week, and played every Saturday. She was really good at it as well. She hoped one day she would play in the Olympic Games. Sarah was also a follower of Jesus. She loved going to church on Sundays, because she could have fun with her friends and learn more about Jesus. One day her coach said to her "Sarah, I've noticed that you're a really great player. Would you like to join the 'A Grade' team'? This made Sarah very excited, because some of the people in the A Grade team would get picked to play for the national team! She thought, "This could be my big chance!" But then the coach said, "The only thing is, the A Grade team plays on Sunday mornings." All of a sudden, Sarah knew she had a big choice to make. What would be more important to her? Playing netball, or going to church and learning more about Jesus? This was going to be a tough decision! Have you ever had to choose between two things?

One day Jesus was walking along with his disciples when a man ran after them. When he caught up to them, the disciples could see he was wearing nice clothes, and had expensive rings on his fingers. (He didn't have a mobile phone or portable mp3 player, because they hadn't been invented yet!) A bit out of breath from his run, he bowed down on his knees and said to Jesus, "What must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus said to the man, "You know the commandments: 'Don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, don't cheat, honour your dad and mum." By now, the man was probably smiling to himself. He said to Jesus "I have obeyed all these since I was a little boy."

Then Jesus said to him "There's only one more thing you need to do. Go and sell everything you have and give the money to the poor, and then you will have treasure in heaven. And when you've done that, come and follow me."

When the man heard Jesus say this, he became very sad. He didn't want to do what Jesus said because he had lots and lots of money and he didn't want to give it up.

The rich young man in the story thought he was pretty good. He thought, "Sure, I'm a good person. I've never killed anybody, I've never robbed anyone, I always obeyed my parents." He thought that just by obeying God's commandments, he'd be able to be a part of Jesus' Kingdom. He was wrong! He didn't realise the first and most important thing he had to do was make a choice... he had to decide whether Jesus was more important than the other thing he loved the most - his money. He had to decide whether following Jesus and being a part of his Kingdom was the most important thing in the world to him. He had to decide if Jesus really WAS going to be his King.

Another time, Jesus said, "What good is it if you gain the whole world, but lose your soul?" What's the point of owning everything... if you're not going to have eternal life in God's kingdom? What good is it if you own a couple of mansions, a few sports cars, even a plasma screen TV in the toilet... but when you die you lose the lot? The man who met Jesus was a "bloke with everything." But there was a problem. He didn't really want to follow Jesus. He decided his money and the things he owned were more important. The thing he wanted most was his treasure in this life - which means he didn't really want eternal life with Jesus at all! So he walked away, feeling sad. I think Jesus was probably sad too. As the man rich man walked away, Jesus turned to his disciples and said, "It's really hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" Hard... but not impossible. Because everything is possible for God!

What About Me?

The rich man who met Jesus had to work out what was most important to him. Was Jesus and his Kingdom going to be number one? Or his money and the cool things he owned? The bad news is, the man in the story decided that his money and possessions were more important than eternal life. His money would run out, all the fun things he owned would wear out - or he'd get sick of them. And in the end, he'd have nothing! We all need to decide whether following Jesus is more important to us than anything else! But you know, it's worth following Jesus and making him number one because that means we get to live forever in his really excellent kingdom- that's where the REAL treasure is!

Song

Introduce *The Bloke with Everything* by reminding your class that following Jesus needs to be the most important thing in our lives. That means choosing whether he will be our master, or other things will be more important. Listen to the song, then try it with your own musicians, or the backing track from www.emu.mu.

The BlokeWith Everything

X Box and Play station 3 Coolest stuff you'll ever see 27 DVD'S The bloke with everything	So when King Jesus walked on by He asked the question in his mind Tell me how can I not die And not lose everything?
20 pairs of Nike shoes	Jesus said one thing you lack
Plasma screens in every room	sell it all and then come back
Even had one in the loo	And follow meit's just a snack!
The bloke with every thing	Then you'll have everything
	[screaming lead guitar solo]
He was smart and thought of what	If you know Jesus as your King
happens to this stuff he'd got	lt's worth more than anything
when he'd die he'd lose the lot	Give your all to follow Him
The bloke with everything	Cause He's worth everything!
, 8	He's worth everything
	He's worth everything!

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Worksheets

Cut out images of "treasure" from advertisements or the clipart sheet, and stick them on the money bag on the junior worksheet. What sort of treasures would stop the children following Jesus? Ask if being on a netball or football team could be "a treasure." Help seniors through the questions on their sheet. Some are tricky!

Banner

Nice and simple this week! The money bag represents the treasure that the rich man chose instead of Jesus. Ask the children what they think of his decision. Listen to "*The BlokeWith Everything*" again as you work on the banner.

Prayer

Thank Jesus that people like us can be part of his kingdom.Ask him to accept us and forgive us, and to help us to live with him as our King. Ask that as the children grow, they will continue to make Jesus their Number I treasure! Pray that the things we own, or want to own, won't stop us from being part of the Kingdom of God.

Review - Handle with care!

Take care! As you think back over the lesson, make sure you <u>haven't</u> told the children that they have to go home and give away all their favourite things to be followers of Jesus! Rather, the thing we're called to do is get rid of anything that's would *stop us* from following Jesus. In the words of Hebrews 12:1, "let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

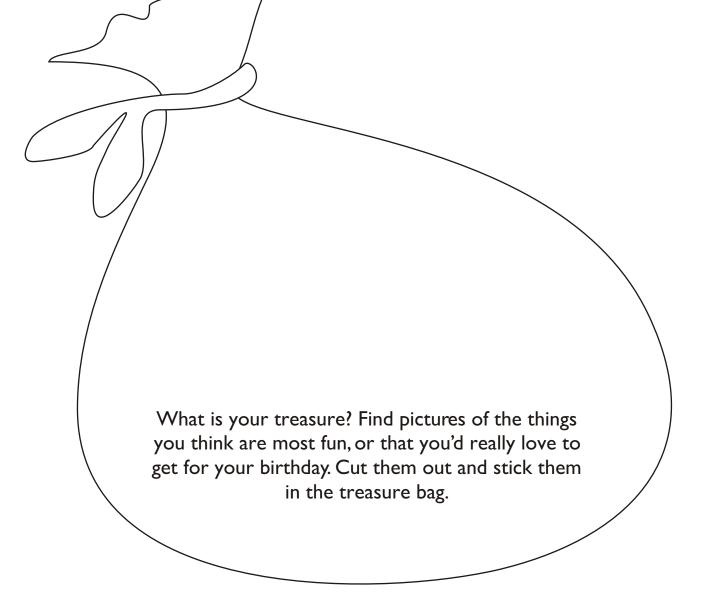
Treasure Clipart Page

for use with worksheet 7

Choose some treasures for your treasure bag. Cut and glue them.



worksheet 7



Jesus said to the rich man,

"Go and sell everything you have and give the money to the poor, and then you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me." Mark 10:21

senior worksheet 7



Read Mark 10:17-23 for yourself.

This is tricky! Does the *rich man* think that he is "good"? Why? Does *Jesus* think the rich man is good? How do you know?

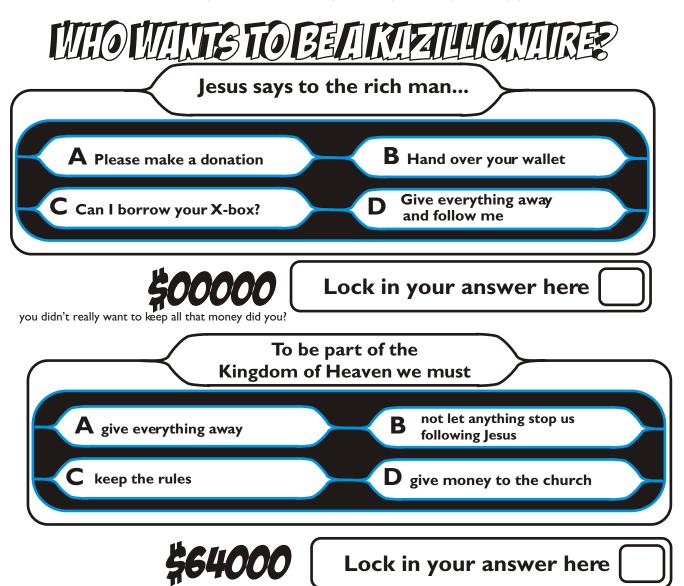
There are lots of feelings described in this passage! How does Jesus feel about the rich man?

How does the rich man feel about his own decision at the end?

In the end, it's not how good you are that counts.What does?

What sort of things stop you wanting to follow Jesus?

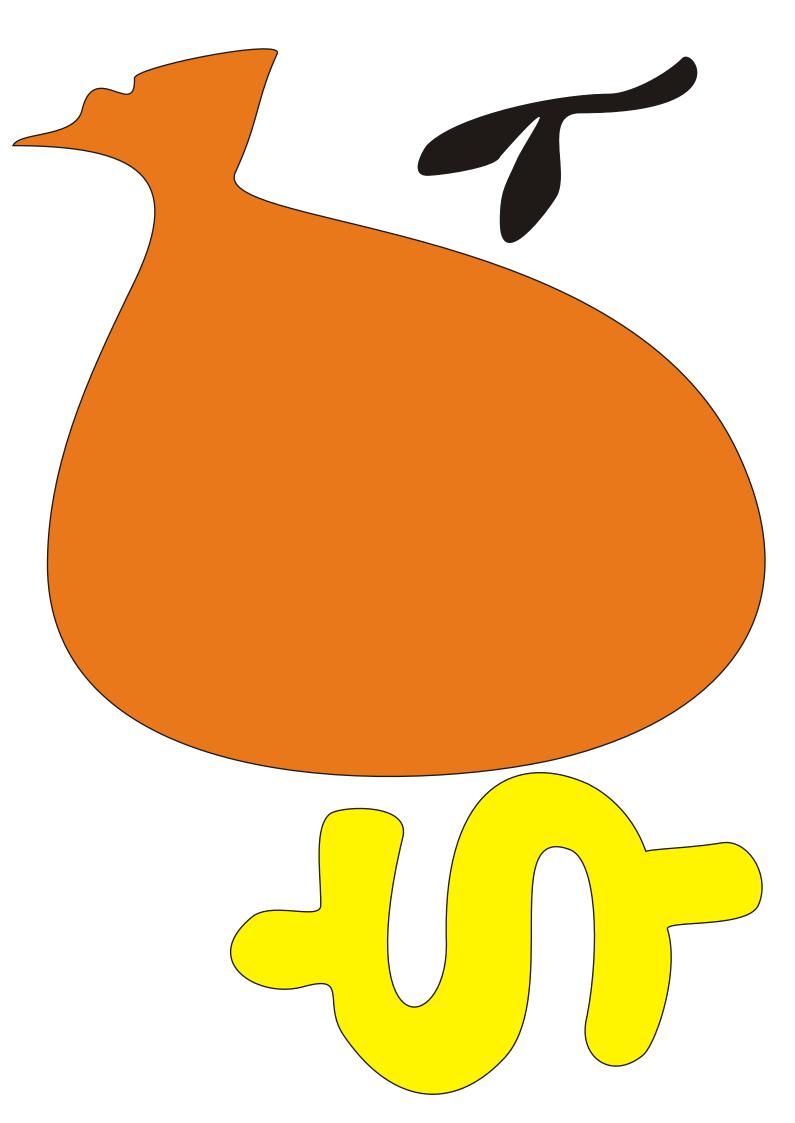
Weird Science: If you kept reading just a little bit further, Jesus says the famous words, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Visit to the zoo and check out some camels, or do some Internet research. How big is a camel? Measure it. Now measure the hole in the end of a needle. How hard would it be to fit the camel through the needle? How hard is it to get into the Kingdom of God if you're still hanging on to a load of "stuff"?

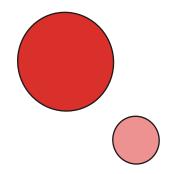


Okay...if you've got this one figured out, you can have the money back! It's not the money that's the problem...it's putting ANYTHING before following Jesus. For the rich man it was money. What is it for you?



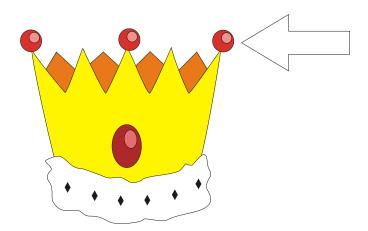
Final assembly, around 70% full size. Full size cutting patterns are on the following pages.



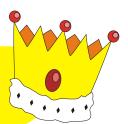


Build a crown!

Let's add the final jewel to the crown. The lighter coloured piece represents the light sparkling on the jewel. Again, use a stick-on plastic jewel if you can.







Aim

To show how being great in God's kingdom is "upside down" compared to the way we usually think of greatness. Jesus shows us what it *really* means to be great.

Bible Focus

Mark 10:32-45.

Memory Verse

Mark 10:45."For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Songs

Mark 10:45 (The S-s-son of Man) - use this to teach the memory verse, as it's w-w-word-for-word! The Greatest in the Kingdom The Son of Man Song (for listening)

Materials

Banner cut-outs; a bouncy ball and chocolate bar prizes for the game; pre-cut "service cards" for children to give to parents and friends.

Activity

The aim of this activity is to take a well known game and "reverse the rules", so that losers become winners. You'll need to choose a game your children are familiar with. In "Dodge Ball," for example, a group of children stands inside a circle of other children; you're "out" when someone in the outside ring manages to hit you below the knees with the ball. We're going to turn the rules upside down. Explain that you're "out" when you're hit by the ball, and start the game. Wait until the first two or three players are knocked out... then reward them as surprise "winners" with chocolate bars, and start the story.

Story

What do people think it means to be great? Best runner, top marks, most pocket-money? Some people think that they are more special than other people because they are really good at games, or because their mum and dad buy them expensive clothes, or even because they have a better bike than anyone else. Maybe you know someone like that?

Two disciples of Jesus wanted to be the greatest and most important in God's Kingdom - but they're going to learn a very surprising lesson. The lesson is, to be great in God's kingdom, you have to become a servant. It's exactly the opposite to what you'd expect... just like in our game. Every week, we've seen Jesus doing great and powerful things. But in God's Kingdom, greatness is used for helping others.

In today's story from Mark's gospel, these two disciples James and John want to be *first*. They're already part of the team Jesus has picked - the team called "the twelve disciples." But James and John wanted it to be "the *two* disciples." They wanted everyone to know they were extra special friends of Jesus, more special than any of the others. They wanted to be the top bananas. They wanted to be GREAT.

Well, one day when the other ten disciples weren't around, James and John went up to Jesus and asked him, "We want you to do for us whatever we ask." Now that's tricky. Because if Jesus says, "Okay," then James and John might ask for something silly. I guess you've tried the same thing on your mum or dad? But Jesus wasn't going to be fooled. So he asks them "What do you want me to do for you?" James and John say, here's what we want. They say, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."What they mean is, when you show the whole world HOW GREAT YOUARE, make sure we're there with you. When you show the world that you're the King, make sure you put US right up the front. They said, give us the SPECIAL SEATS... so everyone will think we're special. I have a feeling that when he heard what they were saying, Jesus just laughed. And he said to them, when you find out what I'll have to do to serve God and be crowned as King, you won't really want to be there with me at all! (He was talking about the way he would have to die for his people... but we'll find out more about that next week.)

Now, when the other ten disciples heard what James and John had secretly been trying to do, how do you think they felt? They were so annoyed that steam almost came out their ears! They were annoyed because they were jealous. They were annoyed because THEY wanted the special places for themselves. They were upset that James and John beat them to it! When Jesus heard them arguing, he called them together. And this is what he said. He said, "You know that most rulers and Kings are really bossy, because they think they are more important than the people they rule. But GOD'S KINGDOM is different. In God's Kingdom, if you really want to be great, you've got to serve everybody else - because God's kingdom is upside down! If you want to be first, you've got to be last. The people God thinks are really great are the ones who serve and help everybody else."

Can you imagine what was going through the disciples minds? "Mmm. I'm not sure I want to be the most important person after all if I have to be everyone else's servant!" And then, Jesus says something that would have made them think very hard. He said, "For even the Son of Man (which was another special name for Jesus, God's king) ... for even the Son of Man didn't come to BE served, but to serve... and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Way back long ago, the prophet Daniel had a dream about the "Son of Man" who would be a great King ruling over everyone. And Jesus has been doing everything that a great King would do - which is why the disciples wanted to hang around with him. But now Jesus says that being the Great King in God's Kingdom means giving up his life for everyone else! Instead of using his power to boss people around, he uses it to serve. And the most amazing way he does that is when he dies on the cross, and takes the punishment for all our sins. But we'll find out more about that next week!

What About Me?

Jesus doesn't want his followers to argue about who's the most important. He wants his followers to serve each other, just as He served us. God is pleased with us when we put others first. Sometimes this can be a really hard thing to do because we like to put ourselves first. How do you sometimes put yourself before others? What are some ways that you can turn that 'upside down' and serve other people instead?

Song - The Greatest in the Kingdom

Introduce the song by reminding the kids that the great ones in God's kingdom are those who serve others instead of putting themselves first. Remember, backing tracks are available from <u>www.emu.mu</u>

The Greatest In the Kingdom The greatest in the kingdom are the servants The greatest is the servant of us all Though he is our King Jesus gave up everything His life to death to free us from our sin.

The greatest in the kingdom are the servants The greatest is the servant of us all Cos He is our King We must give up everything To love and serve and trust and follow him.

The greatest in the kingdom are the servants The greatest is the servant of us all To be like our King We must give up everything To love and serve each other just like him. © 2003 Paul Sheely

Worksheet

Hand out the worksheets, and talk about ways children are able to serve at home, and serve their friends. Guide seniors through the different sections of their sheet. Allow children (both seniors and juniors) to choose one or more "Service Cards" to give to their mum or dad, or a friend. Make it clear that you'll be asking for a "Service Report" next week. *Make sure you take a service card yourself too!* This is a great opportunity to teach by example.

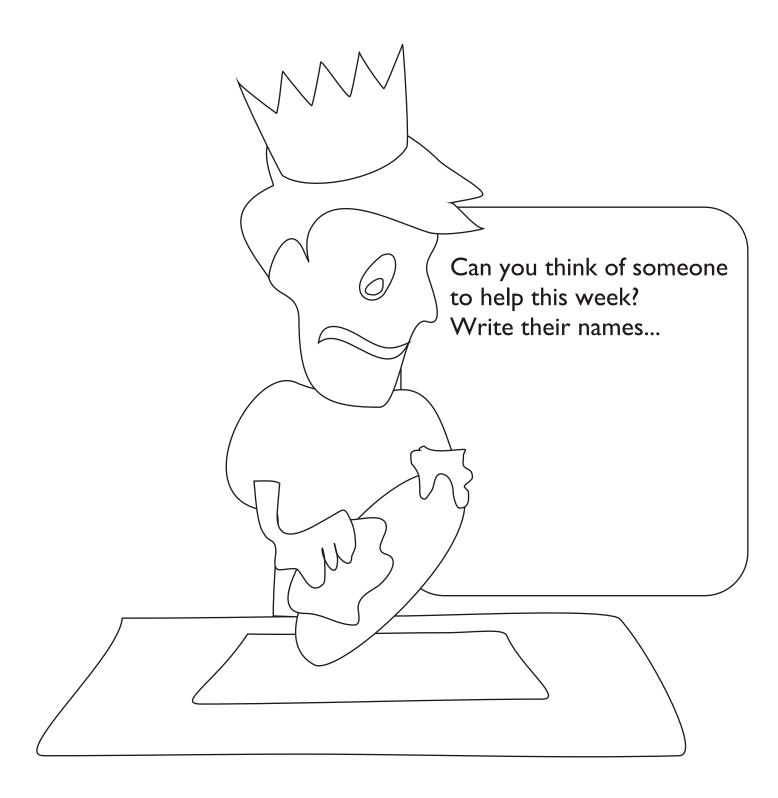
Banner

Assemble the banner, listening to The Greatest in the Kingdom, The Son of Man Song, and Mark 10:45

Prayer

Pray that God would help us all to be servants of one another. Ask for help in learning to put others first, instead of "putting others down" in the way we speak to them and treat them. Thank God that Jesus was a King who came to serve his people. Pray for practical opportunities to be servants this week.

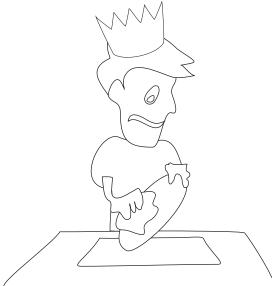
worksheet 8



Mark 10:45.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

senior worksheet 8



Read Mark 10:32-45 for yourself. Isn't it odd... just after Jesus has told his disciples that he's going to be mocked and spat on and flogged, James and John want him to make them famous!

Check it out...

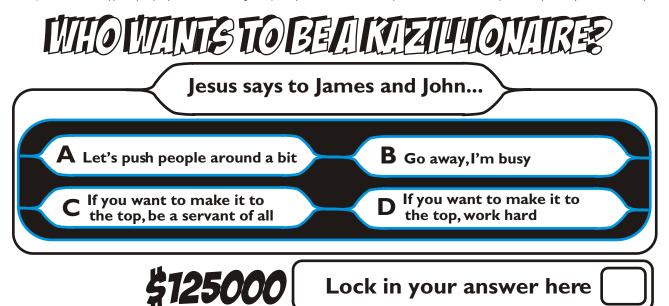
What do they ask? (v37)

What does Jesus say? (v44)

lt's odd...

When Jesus talks about "*drinking the cup*" and "*being baptised*" like him (v38), he's talking about *his death*! It's the cup full of God's anger that he "drank" for us when he died on the cross. Do James and John want that type of greatness? No way!

Weird Experiment: Can you last for a week making yourself *last*? Do you think you can do it? Be the LAST in line at school. Be the LAST in the queue at the supermarket. (Choose the longest queue rather than the shortest!) When you're about to have a meal, make sure everybody else is served first. Will there be enough food for you? Aaargh!What if you miss out? (That's what can happen if you put yourself last! Its dangerous.) Finally,be FIRST to offer to help with the dishes and other jobs. Use up as many service cards as you can.





Meet somebody great...

In a church with lots of rich people with important jobs, Larry stands out a little. He's not rich. And he's not especially important. Larry, however, is usually the first to arrive at his church each Sunday. Though nobody has asked him to do it, he sweeps the pathway at the front, and makes sure the church bulletins are neatly folded. Larry checks the supplies of tea and coffee in the church kitchen. If they're low, the next week he'll arrive with a jar or two of top quality coffee. Not many people notice the way Larry is always looking for ways to help. Lots of people probably don't notice Larry at all. And he doesn't really mind... because he doesn't want to be noticed. He only wants to help. According to Jesus, people like Larry are the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven! Look for the Larry in your church and treat him like a hero!

It's Your Serve!

Okay... now it's your turn. Grab some service cards from your teacher and get going. Instead of waiting for everyone else to care for you, start caring for others. Some of the service card jobs are easy - others are yuk!! Which will you choose, and why? Which jobs do you think James and John would have chosen? Which would Jesus choose?



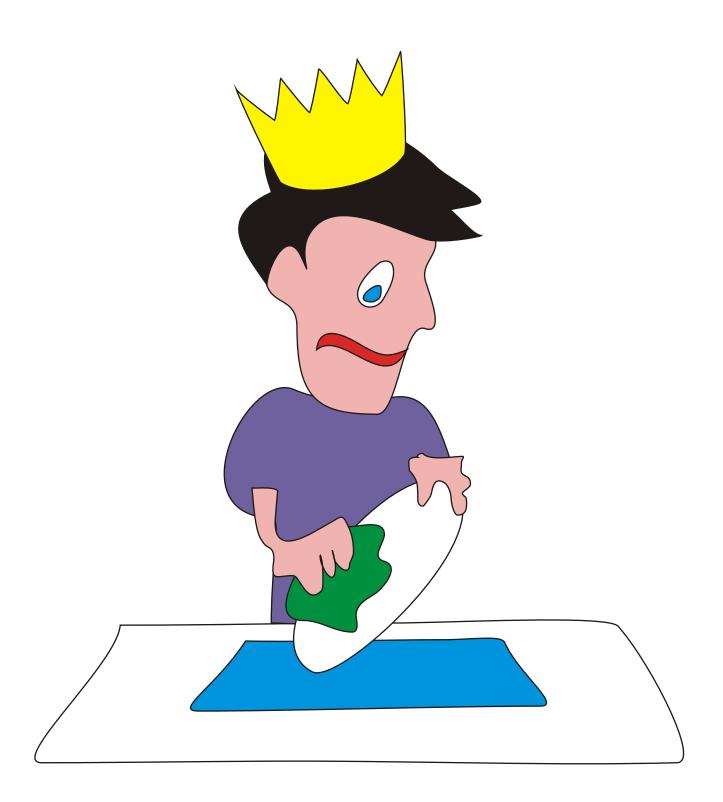
Mark 10:45. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

worksheet 8b

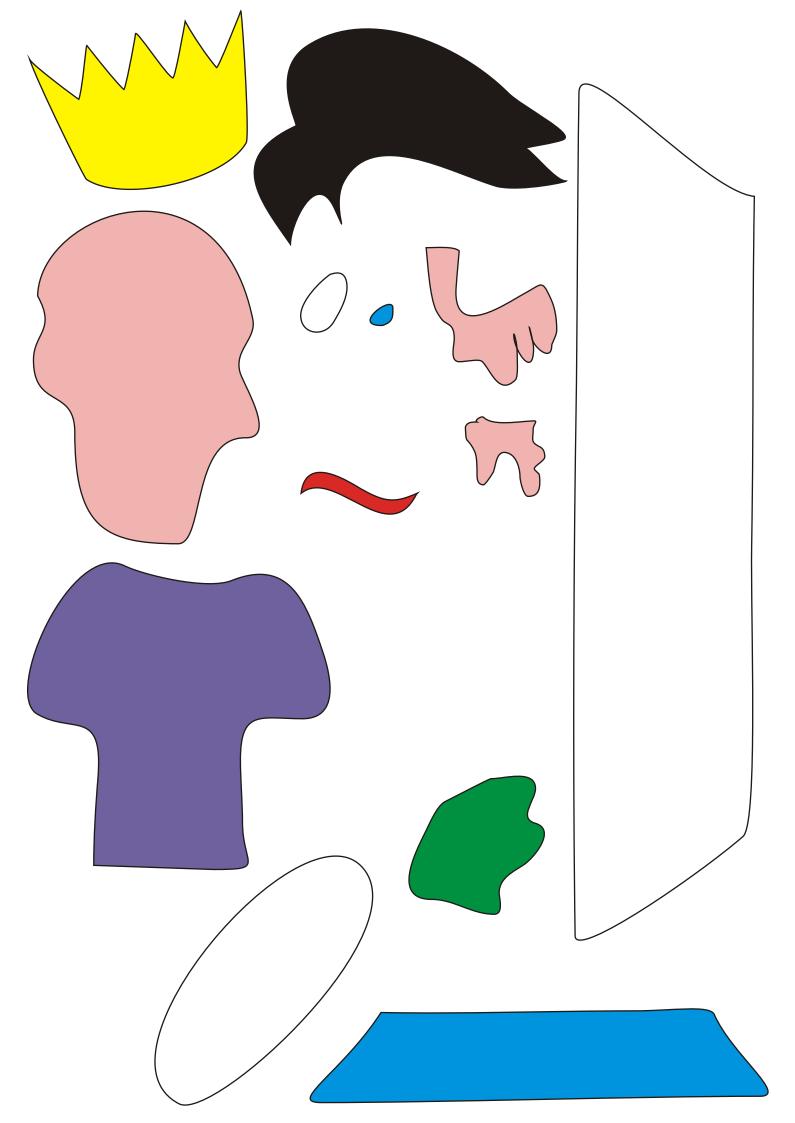
Service Cards

It would be great if you could print these on stiff card with a colour printer. Cut them out, with enough for one or two cards for every child in your class. Let them choose a service card to give as a free gift to somebody they can help. It's important that they follow up the "free voucher" with action!





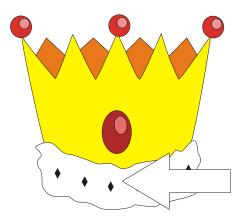
Final assembly, around 70% full size. Full size cutting patterns are on the following page.





Build a crown!

Add three black chevrons to the "ermine" section of the crown. Do your best to space them evenly, and leave room for the final three chevrons next week.



9. Saving King



Aim

To teach that Jesus is the King who died to save us.

Bible Focus

Mark 15:16-41

Songs

What Sort of King He Saved Me

Memory Verse

Mark 15:39."And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

Materials

As usual, make sure you've pre-cut the shapes for the banner. No other materials are needed.

Activity

Play 'Stuck in the Mud' but introduce the game by saying that when you've been tipped (and you're stuck in the mud) you need someone to save you, by crawling through your legs. (Stuck in the Mud is simply the game of "tip" or "tag" with the extra rule that you must "freeze" when you're touched. You can only "unfreeze" when you've been rescued by another player.)

Service Reports

Ask for feedback on last week's "Service Card" projects. Encourage children to give specific details of ways they have served during the week, and any reaction they received. Report on *your own* service activity too.

Song I

Chat about how good it must have felt for the people who were "served" during the week - especially if they really needed help. Talk about how good it is when you're stuck or in trouble to have someone come and "save you". Often, though, the more important a person is, the less likely they are to help people who need it. People like Kings or Queens and Presidents or even the boss of the place your mum or dad might work, usually have other people to do the things they don't want to do If there's a war, rulers of countries send soldiers to do the dangerous fighting for them while the ruler of the country stays safe and warm at home. But Jesus is a very different kind of king! Introduce *What Sort of King* by playing the song from the CD as you display the words. Then teach the song, either with your own musicians, or with the backing track from www.emu.mu.

What Sort of King?

What sort of king goes to a cross? To suffer pain, to suffer loss? What sort of king would want to die? To give his life for you and l? Jesus, Jesus Jesus, King of Kings Jesus, you died Saving us from sin.	What sort of king gives up his life? So he could be a sacrifice? What sort of king would want to serve? To grant us what we don't deserve? chorus © 2002 Bryson Smith
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Story

It's no fun when people pick on you is it? Especially when you haven't done anything to deserve it. In today's story, that's what happens to Jesus... only it's much worse! And yet everything that happens is part of God's plan.

Even though Jesus was powerful and kind, there were people who didn't like him at all. The leaders of his people, the Jews, were jealous, because everybody was listening to what Jesus said instead of what they said. They wanted to get rid of him once and for all so he wouldn't cause any more trouble for them. "Let's kill him!" they said. So they had him arrested, and he was put on trial as if he'd done something wrong. They told loads of lies about him, so he was in heaps of trouble. Their plan worked. Jesus was taken away by the soldiers to be killed, even though he hadn't done anything wrong at all.

All the other soldiers came to have a look and make fun of him. They knew Jesus said he was King of God's kingdom, so they teased him and mocked him. Purple was the colour Kings wore - so they found an old purple robe and put it on him. Kings wear beautiful crowns made of gold, so they made a crown for Jesus as well - but it was made from spiky thorns instead of gold. And they pushed it ... hard ... down on his head. Jesus didn't complain. He knew it was all part of God's plan. Then they all stood around him and yelled out, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Did they really believe he was the King? No, they were just making fun of him. They began to beat him up and they spat on him, and then they pretended to bow down and worship him. They were being incredibly mean - if only they knew that he really *was* the King!

When they were tired of making fun of Jesus, they led him to the hill where they put criminals to death by nailing them to a big wooden cross that was stuck in the ground. Jesus was put on a cross between two others, where two real criminals were being killed as well. What a terrible mistake they were making by killing Jesus just like a criminal! They nailed a sign above his head that said "King of the Jews!" They were mocking him again. If only they knew the truth - he really WAS a King!

As people walked by and saw Jesus, they yelled horrible things to him. They were making fun of him, just like the soldiers had been doing. Some people yelled out, "He saved others, but he can't save himself! If you're a real King, let's see you come down from the cross. Then we'll believe in you."

Do you think Jesus could have come down from the cross if he really wanted to? He did lots of other amazing things. He had plenty of power. So why do you think he didn't come down? [Wait for answers]

Jesus stayed on the cross because he had a job to do. And it was all part of God's plan. He had already explained it to his disciples. He said, "I've come to give my life... as a ransom for many." What he meant was, he was going to die to take the punishment for everybody else's sins. He'd take God's punishment for what the rest of his people have done wrong. He could have saved himself, but he didn't -- he stayed on the cross so that he could save you and me instead. The soldiers thought they were punishing him for saying he was a King. But what was really happening was that he was taking God's punishment for the sins of the whole world!

While Jesus was on the cross a strange thing happened. The sky went dark- even though it was the middle of the day. And then Jesus cried out one last time. And then he died.

The soldiers had laughed at him and were pretending he was a king. But the soldier standing guard in front of Jesus wasn't laughing now! He was amazed by everything that was happening. When he heard Jesus cry out and saw him die, he said, "Surely this man *was* the Son of God!" Somehow, he suddenly realised Jesus really *was* the King of God's people! Lots more people are going to realise that in next week's story when an *amazing* thing happens. But now, there's at least one soldier who gets it right!

What About Me?

What were the different ways people in this story treated Jesus? [Ask for answers] Everyone in the story had decided something about Jesus. You have to decide about Jesus too. You can either believe that he's not really the King, like most people who watched while he hung on the cross; or you can see that he really is the King, the Son of God, like the soldier at the end. If you believe that he *is* the King and that he died to save *you*, then you will be a part of his kingdom that will last forever!

Song 2

Introduce this song by reminding the class that Jesus died on the cross so that we could be saved. He was punished in our place! Play the song from the CD as you display the words. Then teach the song, either with your own musicians, or with the backing track from www.emu.mu.

He Saved Me

Jesus, God's own Son. Jesus, perfect one. Jesus, Son of man. On the cross in pain. Jesus, Son of man. On the cross in pain. Jesus full of grace. Punished in my place.

Jesus full of grace. Punished in my place. Jesus, King of kings. Dying for my sin.

Jesus, King of kings. Dying for my sin. "Save yourself," they said. He saved me instead. © 2002 Bryson Smith

Worksheets

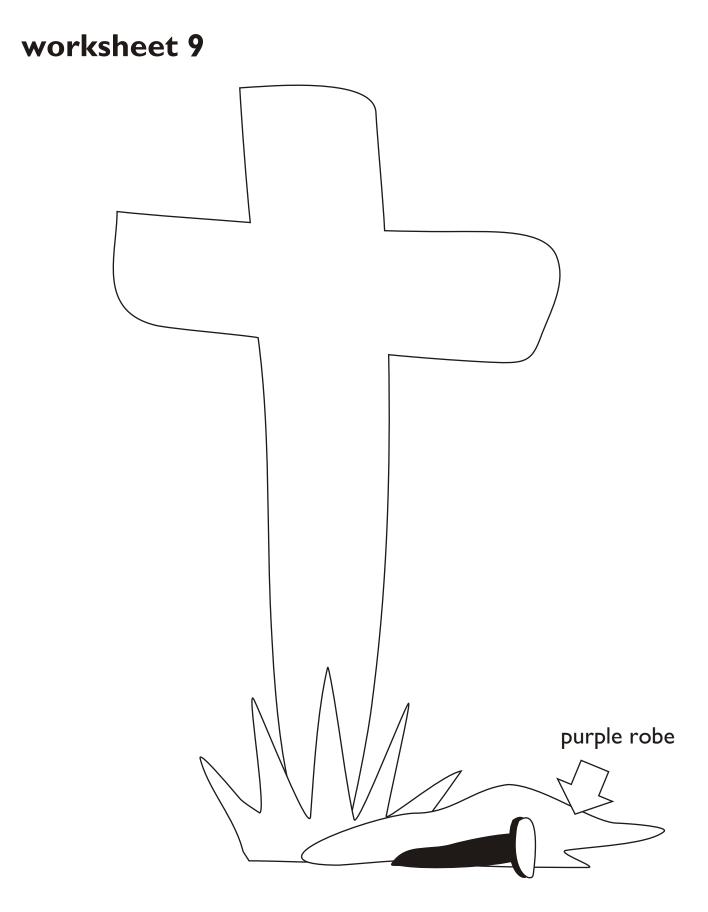
Help juniors colour their simple worksheet while you talk about why Jesus died. Talk through the questions on the senior worksheet. Be prepared, at this stage, to offer extra help to children who wish to find out more about becoming Christians. Think through your strategy in advance. You may be able to work through a tract like "Two Ways to Live" with older children. Please note, it's inappropriate to apply pressure to children at this point! Trust God's Spirit to work in the hearts and minds of those you teach.

Banner

Assemble the banner pieces while you listen again to "What Sort of King" from the CD.

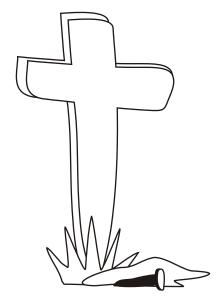
Prayer

Give thanks that King Jesus was a King who came to serve, and died to take the punishment for the sins of others. Pray for help in understanding this, and that God would help us to trust and serve King Jesus.



"And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" Mark 15:39

senior worksheet 9



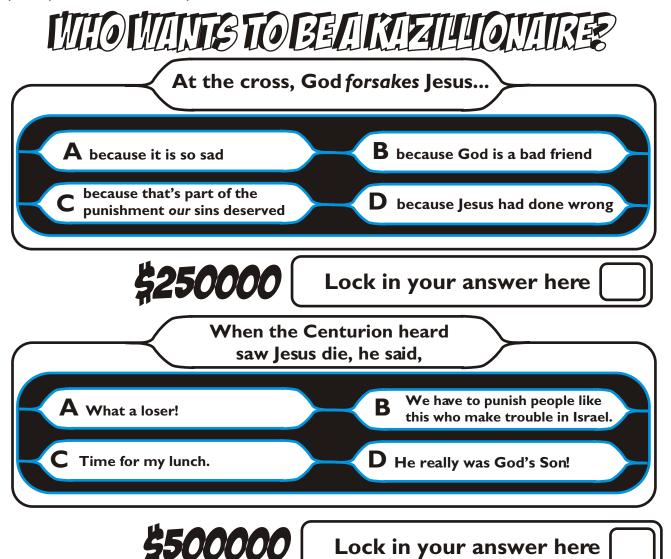
Read Mark 15:16-41 for yourself. It's tough to read it without feeling very sad. In verse 34, Jesus cries out the words "*Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabachthani*" in the Aramaic language. What do these words mean*? (Check the verse!)

What does Jesus mean by this? Can you work out the answer to his question?

Look back to Mark 10:45. Why did Jesus say he was going to give his life? Does this help see why God had to forsake* him?

*Forsake means "give up on" or "turn your back on" someone.

Weird thought...Remember how James and John wanted the places on the right and left of Jesus when he did his big "King thing"? He's doing it now! On the cross, Jesus says he's having his "moment of glory." He has even been crowned! So who gets the places on his right and on his left? I think Mark wants us to notice chapter 15 verse 27!Would James and John REALLY want to be there with Jesus?



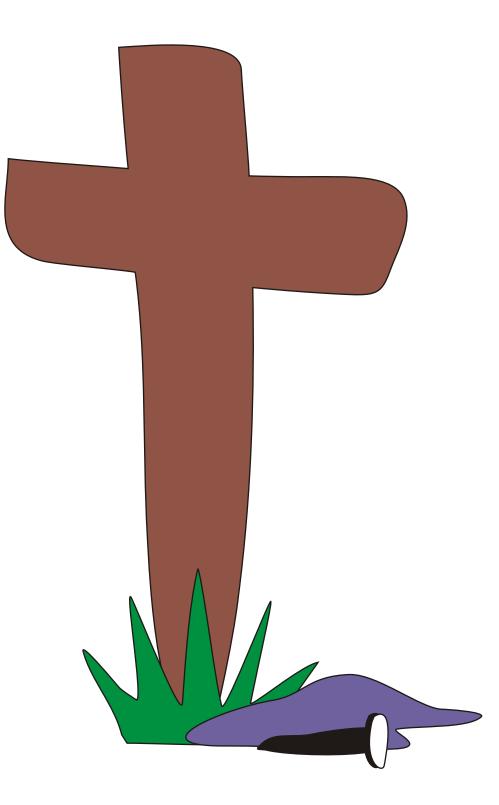
Nearly there! Do you want to go for the million dollar question... or leave now?

FactBlast:

From the sixth hour to the ninth hour means from 9am to noon.

A *praetorium* is the place where the palace guards are based.

The curtain in the temple was torn to show God's judgement on Israel, and also that the temple was no longer important. In the past, only priests could pass the curtain. Now it's open - because our sins are paid for by the death of Jesus!



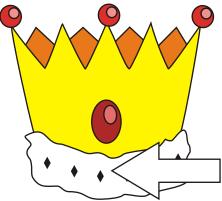
Final assembly, around 70% full size. Full size cutting patterns are on the following page.



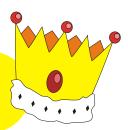


Finish the crown!

Add the final three black chevrons to the "ermine" section of the crown. The crown is almost finished. Next week we just have to add sparkles and glitter.



10. Living King!



Aim

Jesus' resurrection means that he really is the King - and we can have eternal life because of him.

Bible Focus

Mark 15:42 to 16:8

Songs

Jesus is the King Tell Them

Memory Verse

Mark 16:6a."Don't be alarmed", he said "you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here."

Materials

Sparkles, glitter, sequins, and whatever other royal decorations you can find for finishing touches on the crown. Enough rolls of toilet paper for the game (below). Colour printed prize cheques for seniors (see resource page.)

Activity - Mummy Wrap Toilet Paper Game

Divide into teams of three, and give each team a roll of toilet paper. The aim is to wrap one team member (who is standing up, with arms by their side) like a mummy using the toilet paper. Wrap from the ankles to the top of the head so that none of their skin or clothes can be seen. The winning team is the first to completely cover their mummy.

Story

Have you ever had a big surprise? Maybe you've had a surprise birthday party, or maybe one day Mum and Dad brought home a new puppy for the family. Maybe you even found out you were going to have a baby brother or sister? Well in today's story, there's a really big surprise as well. The biggest surprise ever!

It was a Friday afternoon when Jesus died on the cross. A man called Joseph took the body of Jesus down from the cross so he could bury him in a tomb. He bought some linen cloth, and used it to wrap up the body of Jesus. Then he put the body of Jesus in a tomb, which was a cave cut out of rock. To make sure nobody could get in the tomb, he rolled a huge stone across the entrance.

Just after sunrise on Sunday morning, some women who were friends of Jesus came to the tomb. They had some special spices which they were going to use to make the body of Jesus smell nice. But as they walked, they realised they had a problem. The rock Joseph had put at the door! "Oh no! We won't be able to get in. Who will roll the stone away from the doorway of the tomb?"

But when they got there, they got a big surprise - the heavy stone that had been blocking the door of the tomb had been rolled away already! But there was bigger surprise coming! When they walked into the tomb the body of Jesus was gone. A young man was standing there, dressed in shining white - and he had a message from God! The women were afraid. They weren't expecting this at all. Do you think you would have been scared?

"Don't be frightened," said the messenger. "I know you're looking for Jesus who was crucified. But he has risen from the dead! He's not here. Have a look - this is where his body was lying. He's not here. He's alive!" The grave clothes were there... but Jesus was gone!

The women were even more scared! But the messenger kept talking."Go and tell Peter and the rest of

the disciples. Jesus was dead... and now he's ALIVE! Tell them he wants to meet them back in Galilee. Tell them!" The women were so scared and surprised that they were shaking. They ran out of the tomb and couldn't tell anyone what happened because they were so frightened. How do you think *you* would have felt?

They were frightened because they didn't expect to hear that Jesus was alive - they thought he was dead, and dead people don't come back to life! Usually they don't - but Jesus was the King of everything! And that means he wasn't going to stay dead! All through these lessons we've seen how Jesus has power over everything. Can you remember some things we have seen? [Allow time to give some answers - look back over the banner to revise]. He is ruler over people, ruler over sickness; he tells the wind and the waves what to do - he could even forgive sins! And because he came back to life, it shows he has power over death as well.

What About Me?

Because Jesus didn't stay dead, it means he really IS the boss of everything. Who else has power over death? Just like he promised, Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. But he's not just a dead King! He's alive... to rule over his people now, and forever in heaven. And even though lots of people still want to make fun of Jesus and his followers, we shouldn't be afraid to *tell everybody* that he really is the King!

Song - Tell Them!

Introduce the song by playing it from the CD as you display the words. Then teach the song, either with your own musicians, or with the backing track from the <u>www.emu.mu</u> website.

Tell Them

Tell them, tell them. Tell everybody. Tell that the stone's been rolled away. Tell them, tell them. Tell everybody. Tell them they can't delay. Tell them they can't delay.

Tell them, tell them. Tell everybody. Tell that tomb is empty now. Tell them, tell them. Tell everybody. Tell them of Jesus' power. Tell them of Jesus' power.

Tell them, tell them. Tell everybody. Tell them about the risen King. Tell them, tell them. Tell everybody. He is alive again! He is alive again! ©2002 Bryson Smith

Banner

Complete the final panel of the banner, and add final decorating touches to the crown. Use "glitter glue" or tinsel, rhinestones and sequins to make the crown sparkle and shine. Talk about how the resurrection of Jesus really showed he was King! Listen again to *Tell Them*, and *Jesus is the King* from the CD as you look back over all the pictures to revise what we've learned about Jesus.

Worksheets

Assist juniors with their take-home sheet as usual. Make sure you have printed copies of the kazillion dollar prize cheque for seniors who have completed all the questions.

Conclusion

We've seen and heard lots of things about Jesus on our way through Mark's gospel. The question for everyone is *what are you going to do* with what you know about Jesus. Some people laughed at him. People still do. Some people hated him so much they killed him. Some people still hate him. Some people just ignore him. But if he died for your sins, you should thank him. And if he rose from the dead to be King of everybody, he should be your king, who you listen to and obey. So *what are you going to do* with what you've learned about Jesus?

Prayer

Give thanks that Jesus died for our sins, and rose as King. Ask God's forgiveness for the fact that we've all lived with ourselves as king and ignored Jesus. Pray for God's help to live under the rule of King Jesus, serving and loving one another as he taught us.

Teacher's Note - It's Time to Tell!

There's no doubt Mark's gospel has a strange ending. If you've been reading through the gospel as we've worked through the lessons (as you should have!), you'll be aware that the original manuscripts of Mark end abruptly at verse 8. Verses 9 to 20 were added later, with a mix of material from other gospels, to give what the early church thought was a more "satisfyingly complete" ending.

Our goal, of course, is to stay as close as we can to what Mark, the original gospel writer, intended to say. But what sort of ending is ... "Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid?"

Here's a thought. Maybe it's exactly where Mark wanted to leave us. It's strangely unsatisfying even to a casual reader, but how much more-so in a gospel that repeatedly cycles between themes of fear, and "telling" the news about the identity of Jesus.

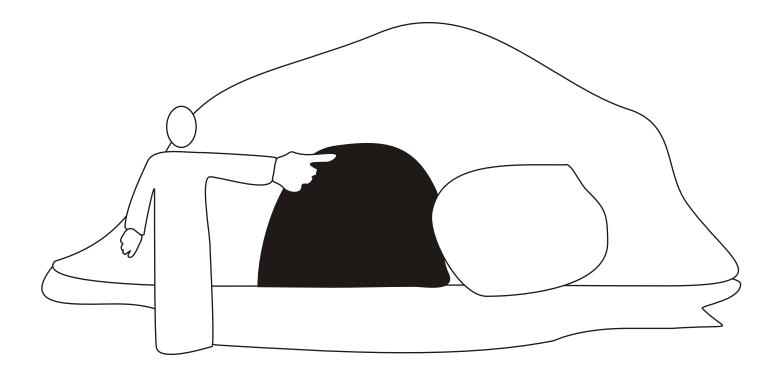
Some have called it the "Messianic secret" the fact that so often in the early stages of his ministry, Jesus forbids those who know who he really is from letting out the news too soon. "I know who you are the Holy One of God," says the demon possessed man. "Be quiet," says Jesus. When the leper is made clean, Jesus says, "Make sure you don't tell this to anyone." (The man disregards this request, and begins to talk freely, "spreading the news", so Jesus has to try to avoid the crowds.) When Jesus raises the dead girl in Mark 5, "he gave strict orders not to let anyone know" (v 43), and when Peter finally understands he is "the Christ", Jesus "warned them not to tell anyone about him." (8:30)

At the same time, the fear and amazement of those around Jesus continues to grow. When he calms the storm, the disciples are afraid, and say "Who is this, that even the wind and waves obey him." As the amazement grows, so does the fear.

In chapter 5, the woman who is healed, "knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth." In Mark chapters 4,5,6,9,10 and 12 we are repeatedly told that either the disciples, or those who see Jesus at work, are afraid.

The point is, it's not so much the "miracle working" Jesus who is to be spoken about, but the risen Jesus, who has died as a ransom for sin, and been raised as the glorious, ruling Son of Man. At the empty tomb, the time has at last come to stop fearing and start "talking." Ironically, Mark's abrupt ending tells us that the women at the tomb have missed the point. It's important we don't!

worksheet 10

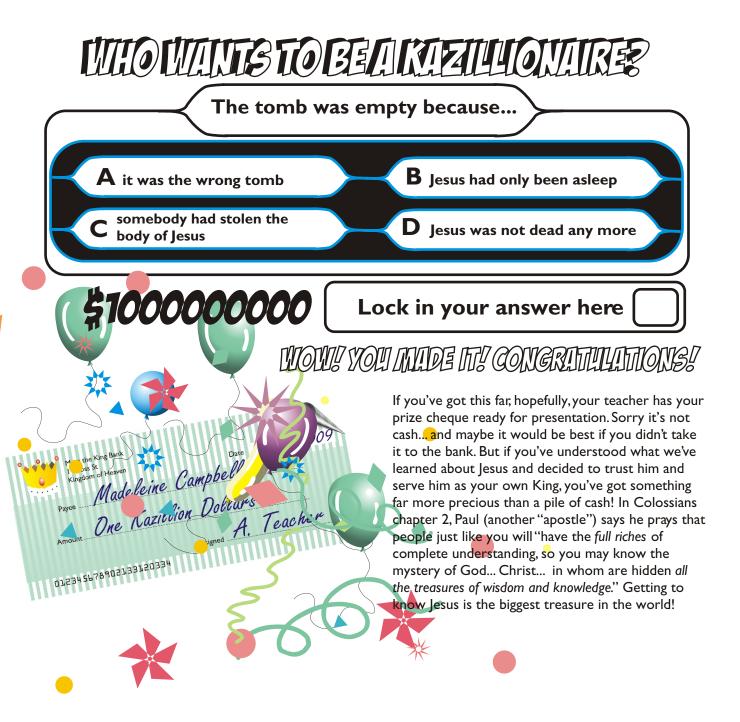


"He has risen. He is not here." Mark 16:6

senior worksheet 10

Look ahead in your bible to Acts 4:33. (Acts is the part of the bible that tells what the disciples, or "apostles" do next!) What are they doing?

Weird Experiment: Wake up just before dawn and ake a look around the house. If you're allowed, go for a quick walk ou**s**ide too. Imagine you're going to visit the place where Jesus is buried.



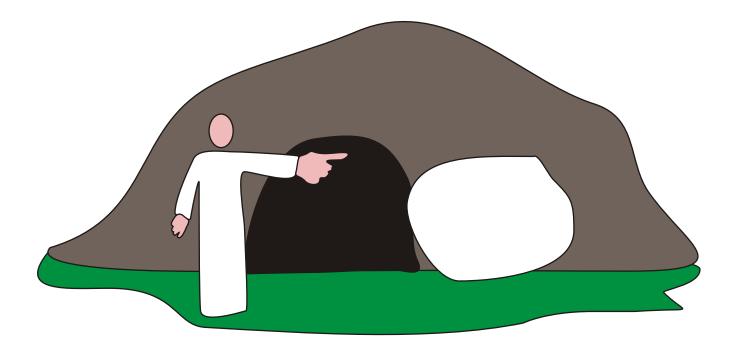
happened to make the difference? (Look back to Mark 9 verse 9!)

Read Mark 15:42 to 16:8 for yourself. Try to imagine how weird this experience would have been!

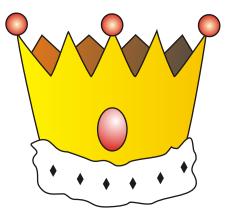
Have you noticed? Quite often, Jesus has told people to "hush!"It wasn't the right time to tell the world that Jesus was the King. But now it is. What has

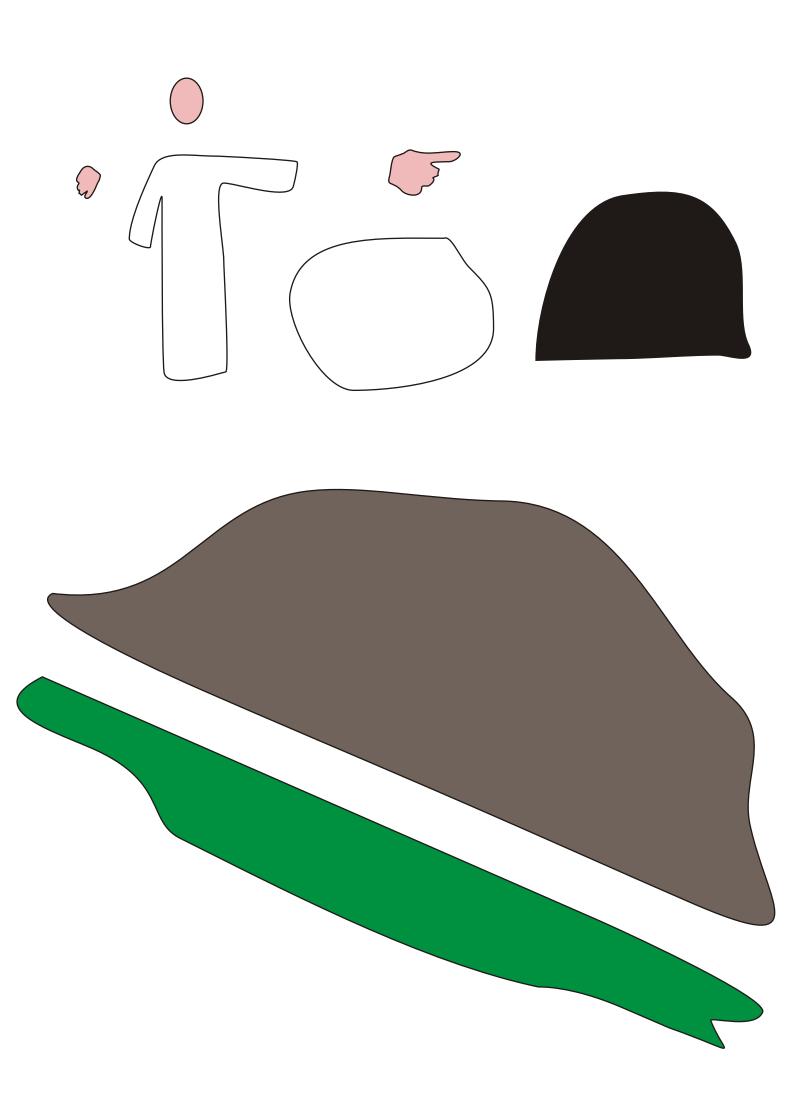
Prize Cheques - print in colour





The final panel, shown at around 70% full size. The full sized cutting pattern is on the next page. Finish decorating the crown panel with sequins and glitter and "sparkle glue."





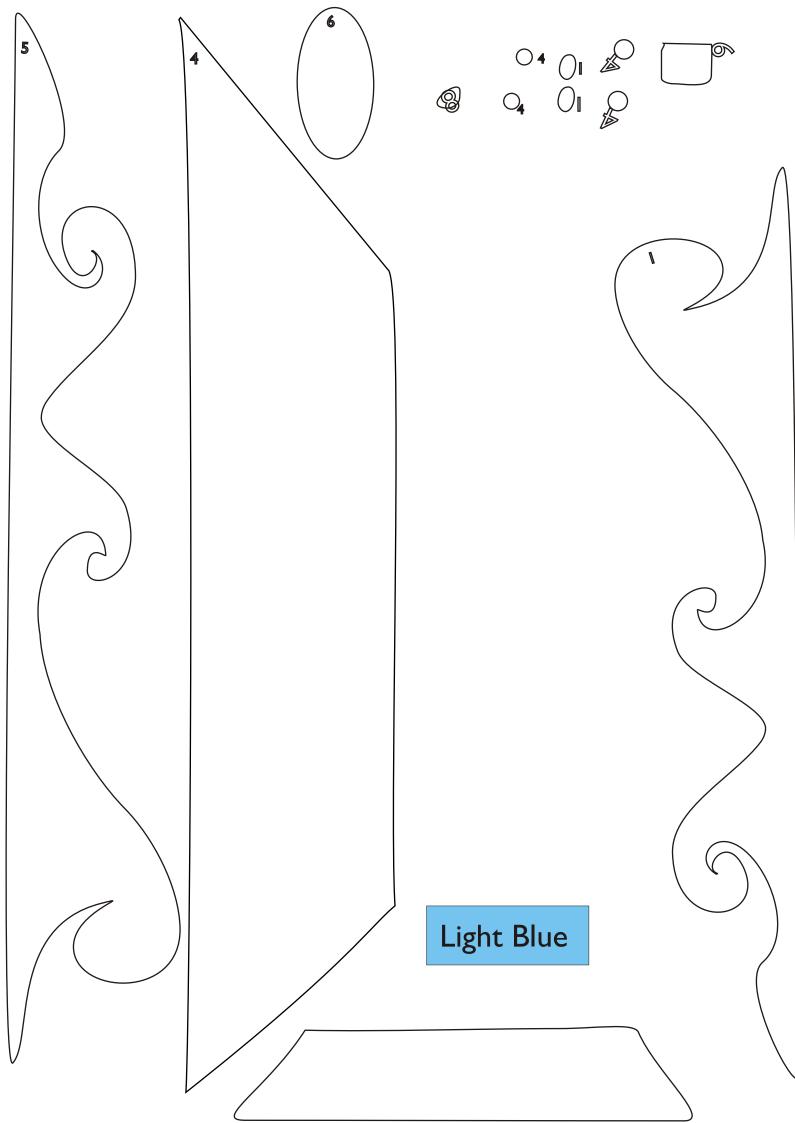
Jesus is the risen King. Go and Tell!



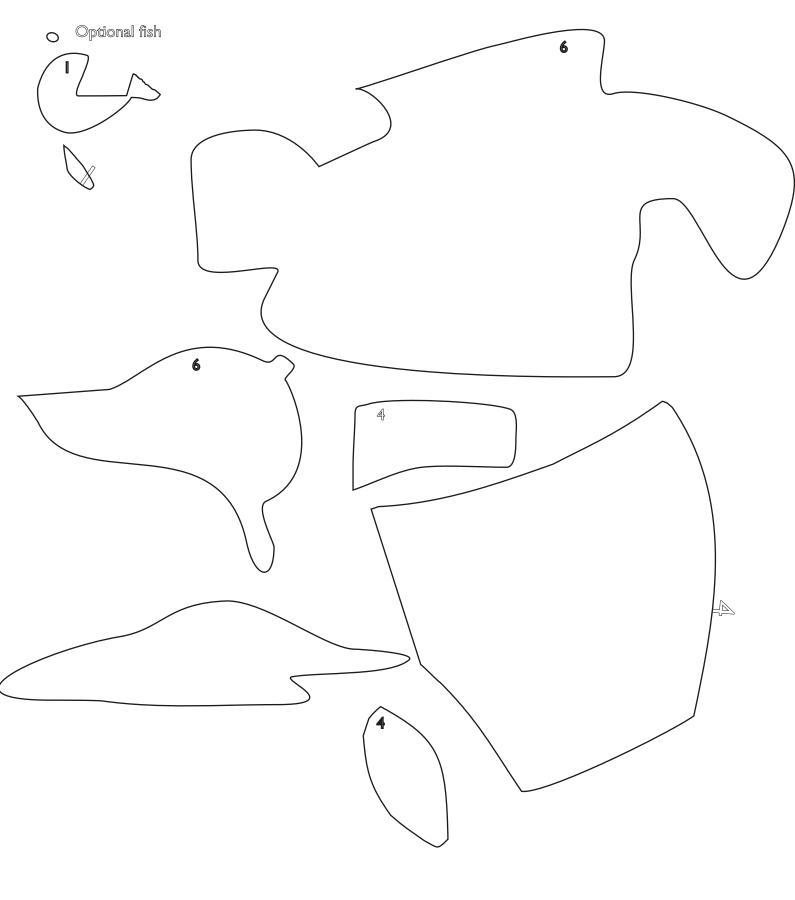
For use with FELT SQUARES from http://www.camartech.com.au/ress/ 12" x 10" - assorted 12 colours per packet. Red, Blue, Yellow, White, Black, Green, Flesh, Brown, Pink, Lime, Purple, Orange. Requires one additional sheet of brown and one sheet of light blue

NB Wholesale prices available for church orders.

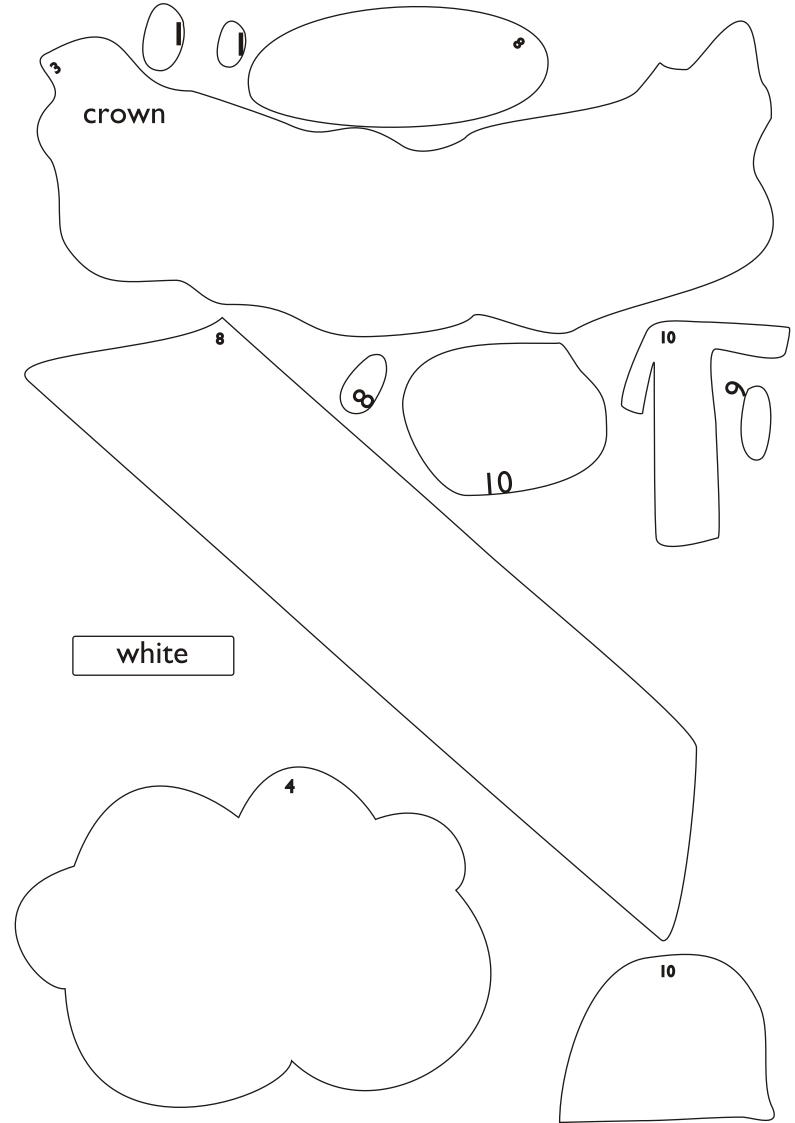


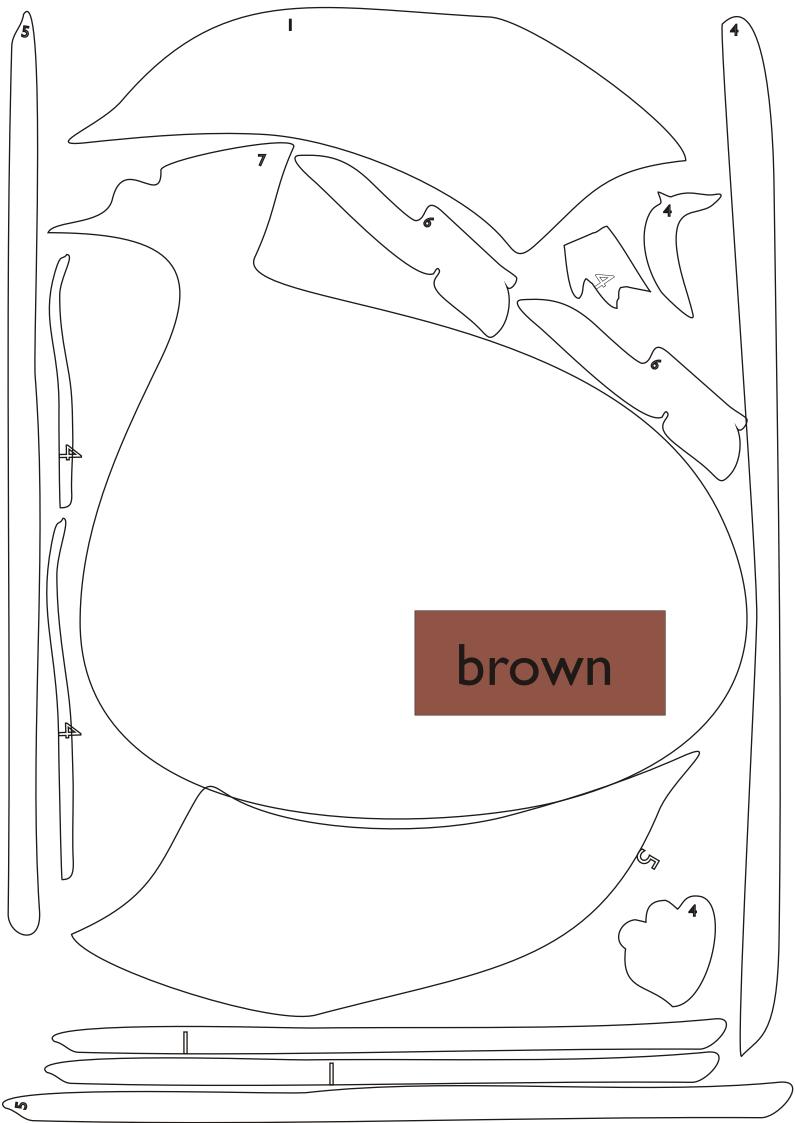


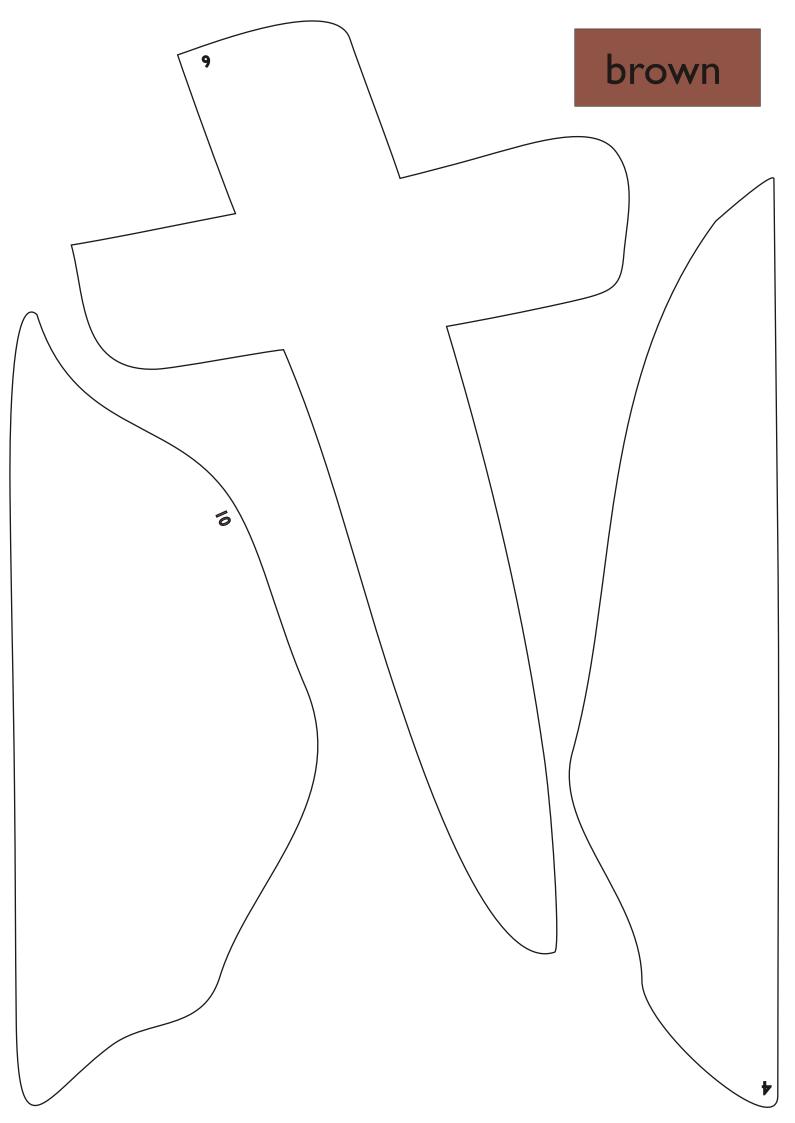


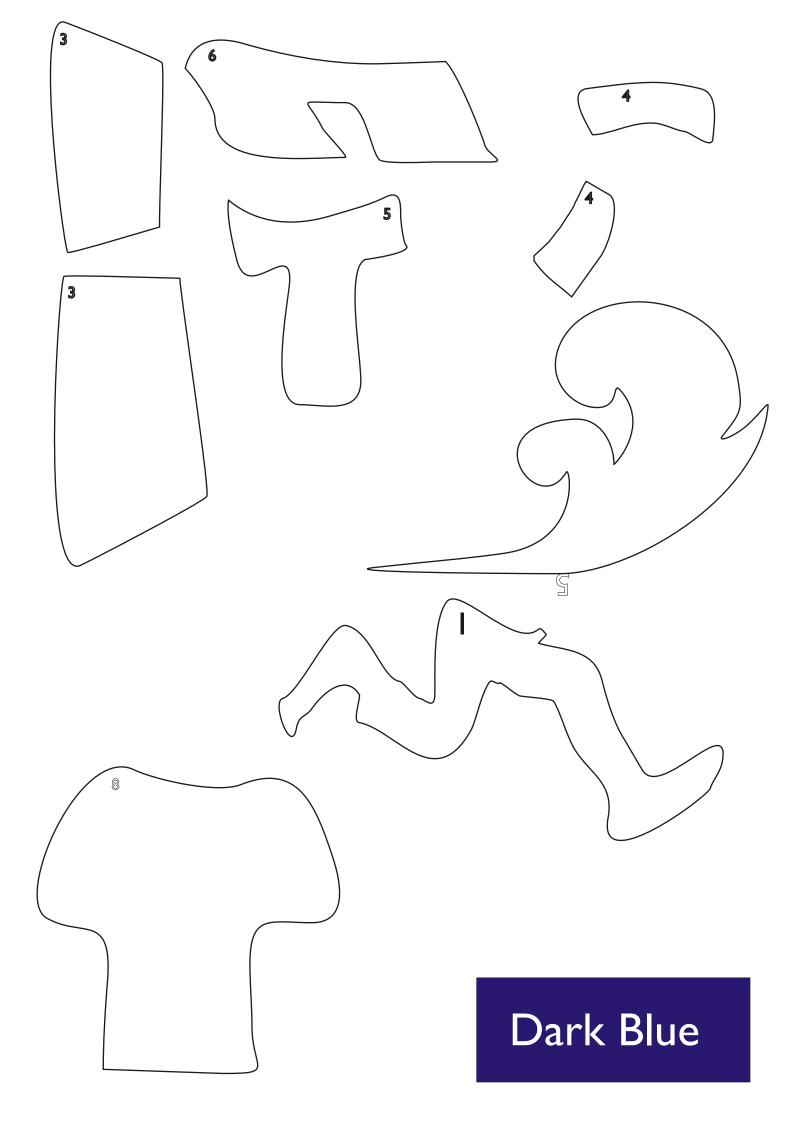


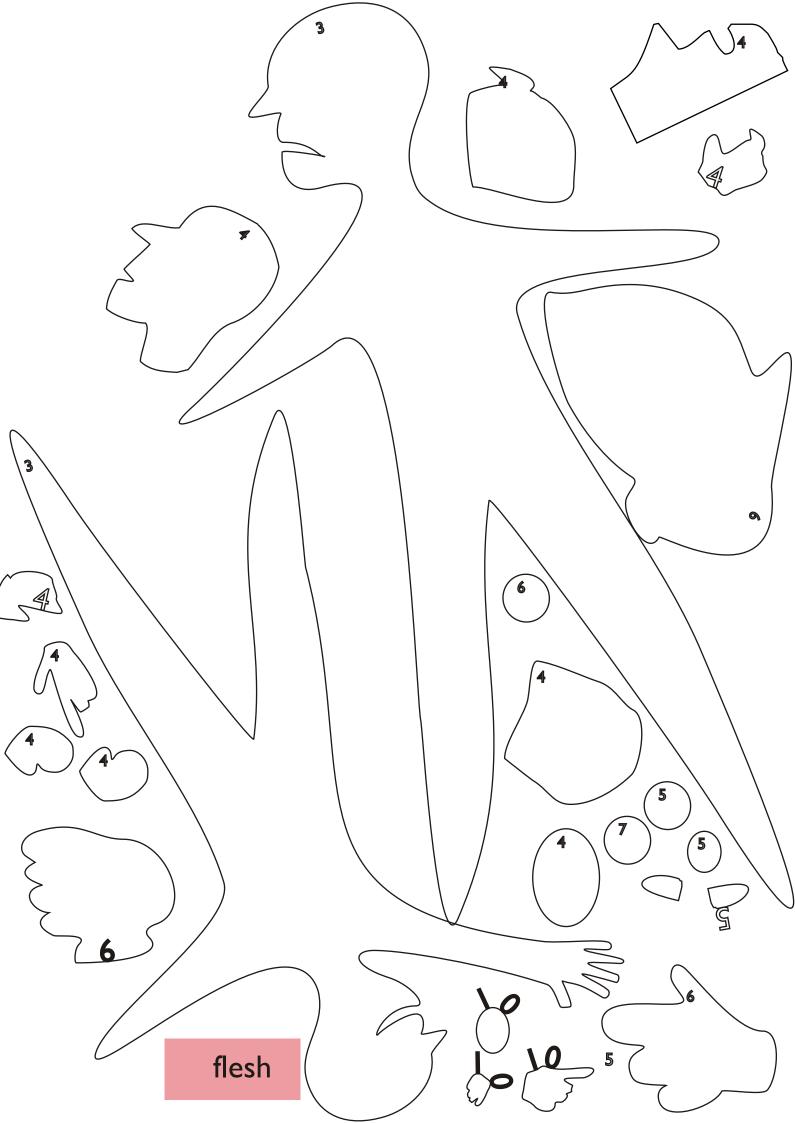
Purple

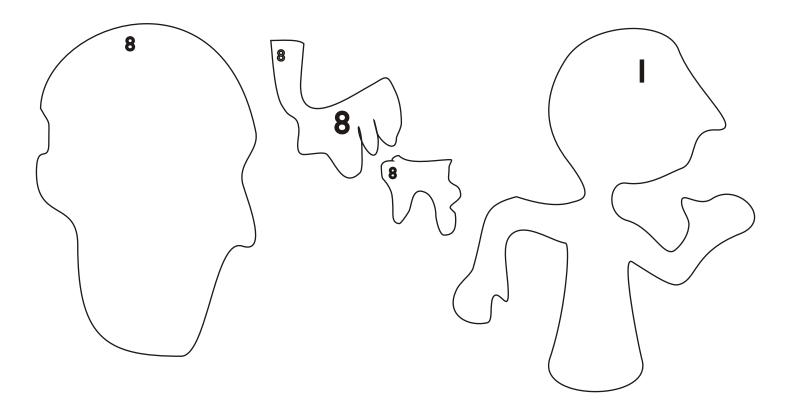












Use additional "flesh" colour if available

pink or flesh



