

PARENTS INFORMATION

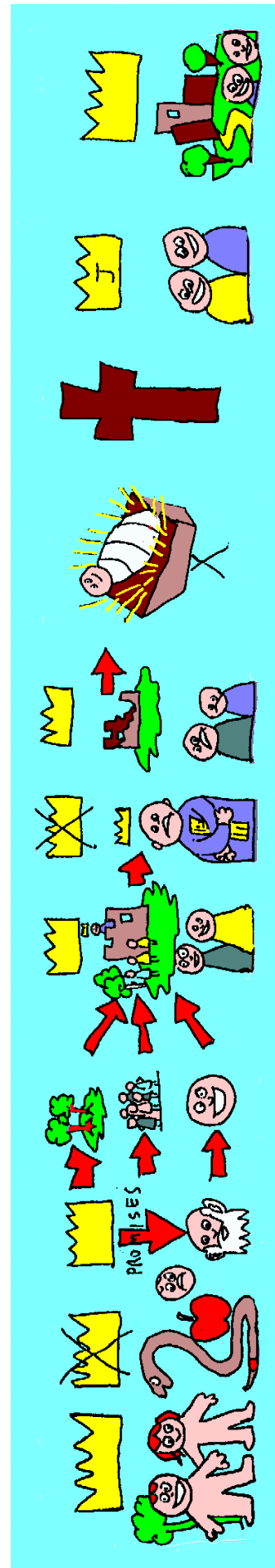
Welcome to The King, The Snake and The Promise – working through key Bible stories in 10 easy sessions

For most of us, the fact that the Bible has a storyline that spans from Genesis to Revelation wasn't something we picked up in Sunday School! In fact, the average Christian will be hard pressed to remember if Abraham comes before David, or Noah and his famous Ark came before or after Samson and Solomon. The bits and pieces of bible stories are all there - but how do they fit together? This is what our sessions aim to cover!

Each session has a passage of the Bible you can read together with your child and then some ideas of activities and thoughts you can chat about.

The banner which goes alongside this set of teaching is KEY as it enables the children to tell the story pictorially and gives them a reminder of the previous stories. You can either do this on material (and cut the pieces out of felt) or you could print the pictures and cut them out and stick them onto a long piece of wallpaper, or in a book, or get your child to draw them – it's up to you!

Original material produced by Phil and Louise Campbell including the banner pictures. Adaptations have been made to make it age specific. Additional activities have been provided by SundaySchoolResources.co.uk All permissions have been sought and granted.



LESSON 9

Jesus is RAISED, Jesus is KING!

Aim

The aim of this lesson is to show that the resurrected Jesus is appointed King of God's people, and that we can be part of his kingdom by trusting and obeying him.

Bible Focus

John 20 verse 19 to 31

ACTIVITY-The Dictionary Game

Find a few fancy sounding words in a dictionary - aim to find words that your class will probably not be familiar with. Write out three or four definitions of each word - one accurate, the others humorous, or possibly convincing. Ask the class to vote on the definitions to decide which of them they believe. Sometimes it will be hard to know which story to believe. Some people are easy-to-fool people, and some people are hard-to-fool types. Stress these ideas before moving on to the story about hard-to-fool Thomas.

Story Time

Some things are hard to believe! But that doesn't mean they didn't happen. Sometimes people say, "I couldn't believe my eyes!" - because they're so surprised.

Amazing things are hard to believe, and today's story is about the most amazing thing that ever happened. And somebody who didn't believe it.

His name was Thomas. His friends probably called him Tom. And Tom was the sort of man who never seemed to believe ANYONE! Tom was what you could call a very SUSPICIOUS PERSON!

Now three days after Jesus died, an amazing thing happened. God brought him back to life again. Jesus was God's son. So he couldn't stay dead. And when he came back to life, he saw people, and talked to them. And ate dinner with them. Sometimes people have been so sick that they stopped breathing for a few minutes and have come back to life. That's called being "revived." But Jesus had been dead for three days, and now he was alive again. That's called

RESURRECTION. And it's never happened to anyone else (except for one friend of Jesus who was raised in a miracle.)

One night, most of the disciples of Jesus were in a room having a very sad dinner. Everyone was there except Thomas. And suddenly, Jesus arrived. They thought they were seeing a ghost! They were amazed. But Jesus got them to touch him, and feel him. He was REAL. And he was alive.

But poor Thomas wasn't there to see him. And what do you think happened when his friends told him who they'd seen. Thomas thought Jesus was dead. He'd seen him die on the cross. So what do you think Thomas said when his friends told him Jesus was alive? [Pause to ASK FOR RESPONSES]

Well, I'll tell you exactly what Thomas said. Because it's written in the bible. Thomas said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my fingers where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

That's the sort of person Thomas was. He didn't trust ANYONE! He had to see it for himself before he'd believe it. And no matter what they said, Thomas just wouldn't believe it.

Well, the next Sunday night, the disciples were having dinner together again. And this time Thomas was with them - just in case anything amazing happened.

And you know what? Something amazing DID happen. Just as they were all sitting down for dinner, there was Jesus. And he said, "Peace be with you." And they were all excited to see him again.

Except Tom. Who I think must have been feeling a little bit embarrassed. Because Tom had a feeling Jesus knew exactly what he'd been saying. That he didn't believe he was alive.

And then Jesus called him over. And he said, "Thomas, put out your hand. Put your finger in where the nails were. Feel where the spear went. It's REALLY ME. So STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE."

Well, Thomas did believe from then on. How could he help it? And he bowed down and worshipped Jesus, because he knew Jesus must have been very, very important for God to have brought him back to life after he died. He knew Jesus was THE KING.

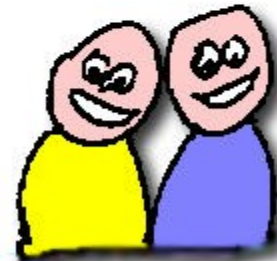
You know, soon after that, Jesus went up to heaven to be with God. But he's still the king. That's what people like Thomas went around telling everyone. They were very happy. Because Jesus was the King God promised long ago. The King who was going to rule God's people for ever. But now, to be God's people you don't have to live in the land of Israel. All

you have to do is follow Jesus. And believe him. And trust what he says. Thomas didn't trust him until he saw him with his own eyes. But Jesus says it's better if you BELIEVE BECAUSE YOU TRUST HIM. And that's the way we live in his kingdom. We read his word in the Bible, and we obey him, and one day we'll live in his kingdom in heaven.

And that's what we're going to learn about next time.

Banner

Ask children what they think the banner pieces mean. [The crown represents Jesus, the risen King. The happy faces are his followers who are part of his Kingdom. DRAW CHILDRENS' ATTENTION to the similarities with the DAVID SECTION of the banner, and the differences. For example, to be part of the Kingdom of God, you no longer need to live in the promised land. You'll live in heaven with Jesus. Being part of the Kingdom of God means accepting Jesus as your king, and trusting and obeying him.



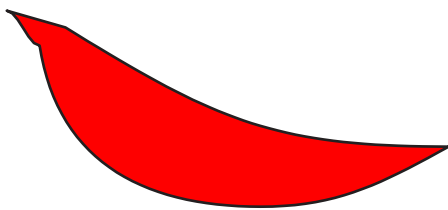
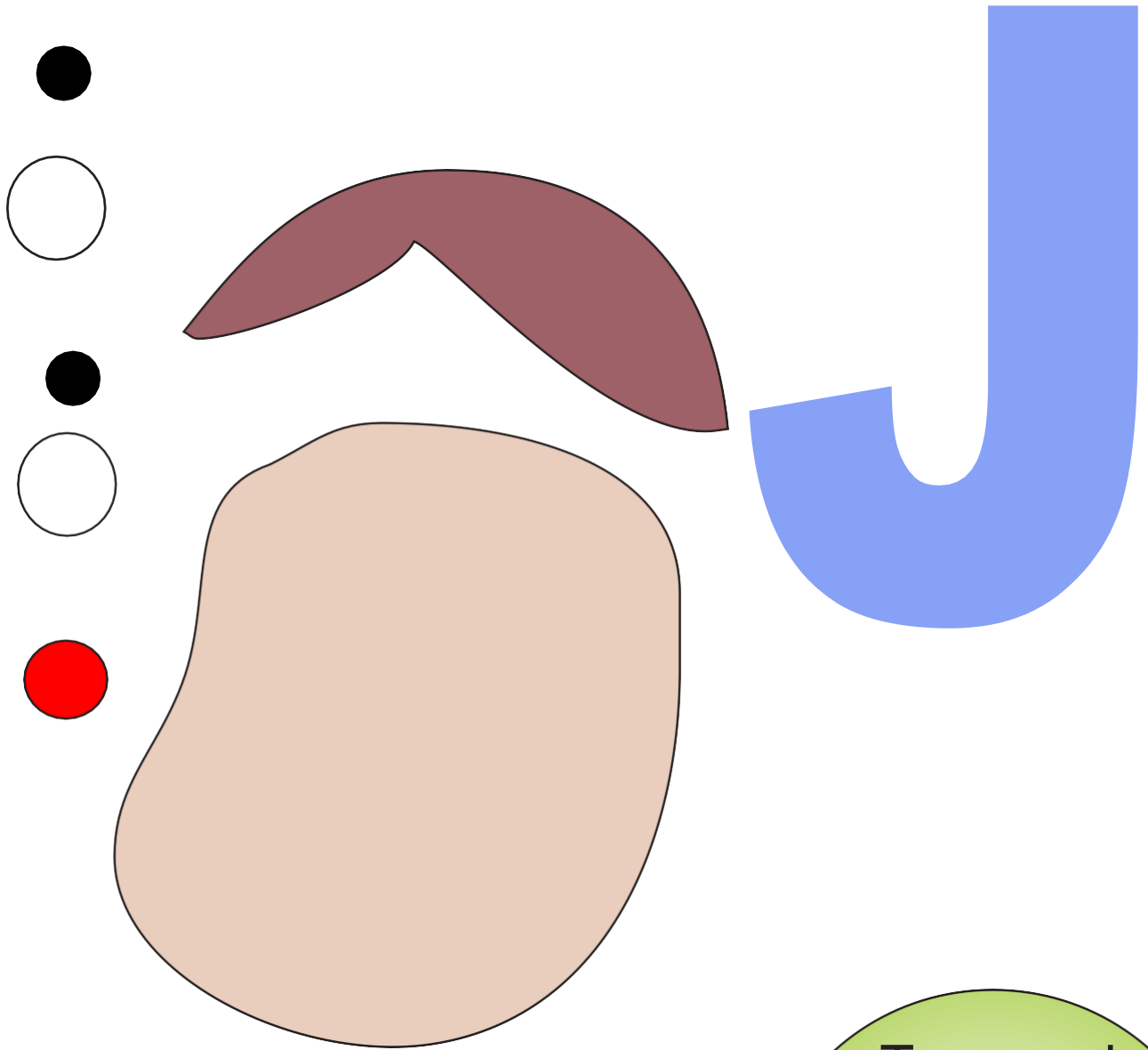
Song

JESUS IS THE LORD! is a great song that highlights the resurrection of Jesus, and the fact that he reigns in heaven now. Play it on the CD for the class to listen to, and explain the words.

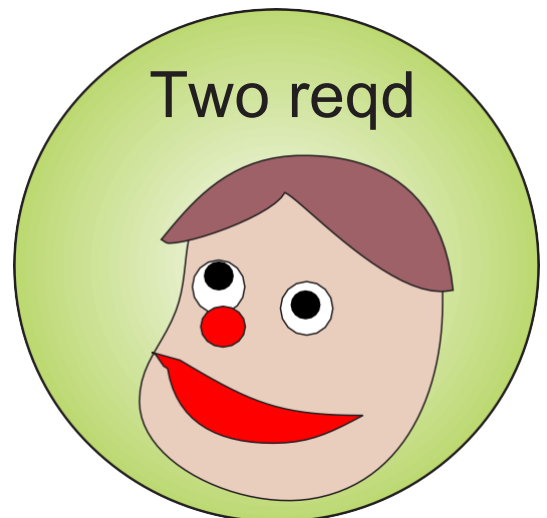
Conclusion

Ask the children to tell you if they have asked Jesus to be their King. If they have, they are part of the Kingdom of God. Explain what an exciting thing this is! They are part of God's plan that stretched all through history and all through the bible, and can look forward to eternal life with Jesus.

Lesson 9 - Jesus is Raised, Jesus is King

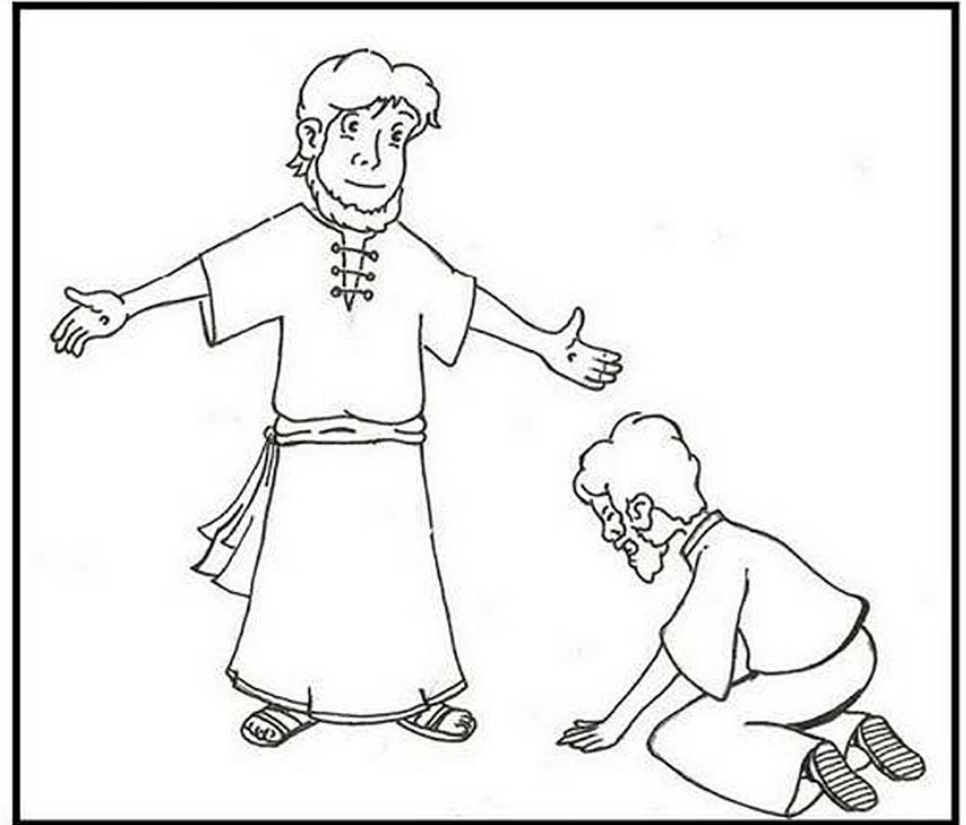
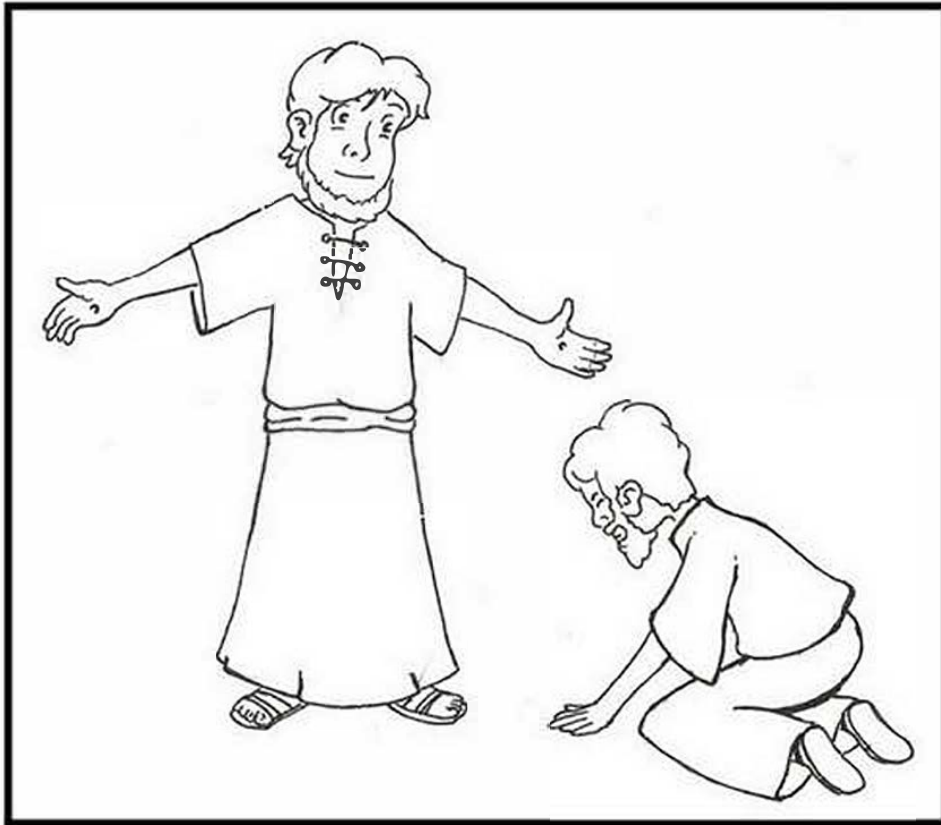


Also Required - Crown





CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?



Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me,
you have believed; blessed are those who have not
seen and yet have believed." John 20:28-29 NIV

A Christmas True or False Quiz

Can you separate fact from fiction in the Christmas story? Test your knowledge by answering "T" or "F" to each statement.

There are no records of Joseph speaking in the Christmas story.	
The wise men were three kings from the orient.	
The little drummer boy came to the manger after the other shepherds.	
The star did not appear above the manger.	
Jesus' ancestors include a prostitute, an adulterer, a woman who committed incest, and a non-Israelite.	
The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary first and then he appeared to Joseph.	
Mary rode a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.	
Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem because of a decree by Caesar Augustus.	
The wise men followed the star as it moved from their eastern land to Israel.	
The wise men did not arrive on the night of Jesus' birth.	
God sent a choir of chubby angels to announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds.	
Shepherding was considered a very noble occupation.	
Both Joseph and Mary were told that the baby was to be named "Jesus."	
When Herod heard about Jesus he was the only one concerned about this new king.	
The wise men found Jesus lying in a manger in the town of Bethlehem.	
After the angels announcement the shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to see Jesus.	
Joseph married Mary immediately after the angel appeared to him.	
Some of the shepherds doubted and refused to believe the message they heard from the angels.	

ANSWERS

There are no records of Joseph speaking in the Christmas story. <i>I'm sure he said something, but there is absolutely no record of him speaking at all.</i>	T
The wise men were three kings from the orient. <i>The number of wise men is not mentioned. They were not kings.</i>	F
The little drummer boy came to the manger after the other shepherds. <i>What little drummer boy? There is no mention of a drummer boy in the Bible.</i>	F
The star did not appear above the manger. <i>It appeared above the house where Joseph's family was living (Matthew 2:9-11).</i>	T
Jesus' ancestors include a prostitute, an adulterer, a woman who committed incest, and a non-Israelite. <i>Rahab was a prostitute, David & Uriah's wife were adulterers, Tamar & Judah committed incest, and Ruth was from Moab. Matthew 1:3,5,6.</i>	T
The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary first and then he appeared to Joseph. <i>Trick question. Mary was first, but we don't know the name of the angel who appeared to Joseph (Matthew 1:20). It might have been Harold. You know, "Hark the Harold Angel Sings."</i>	F
Mary rode a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. <i>A donkey does not appear anywhere in the Biblical account. She probably walked. Ask a heavily pregnant woman if she'd like to ride a donkey??!!</i>	F
Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem because of a decree by Caesar Augustus. <i>Yep. Luke 2:1-5.</i>	T
The wise men followed the star as it moved from their eastern land to Israel. <i>Apparently not. The wise men saw the star in the east (Matthew 2:2). But it did not take them to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem they asked for directions. Once leaving Jerusalem the star appeared again and led them to the house in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:9).</i>	F
The wise men did not arrive on the night of Jesus' birth. <i>The wise men arrive sometime after Jesus is born (Matthew 2:1). Jesus is called a child, rather than a baby (Matthew 2:11). He may have been as old as two (Matthew 2:7,16).</i>	T
God sent a choir of chubby angels to announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds. <i>Actually God sent an army of warrior angels. See Luke 2:13. "Company" and "host" are military terms.</i>	F
Shepherding was considered a very noble occupation. <i>In first century B.C., shepherding was close to what we would consider garbage collecting. Shepherds were unable to remain ritually pure according to Pharisaic laws and so were considered unclean. Yet God chose them for His birth announcement.</i>	F
Both Joseph and Mary were told that the baby was to be named "Jesus." <i>Yes. See Matthew 1:21 and Luke 1:31. Babies were always named by their father. God the Father gives Jesus his name.</i>	T
When Herod heard about Jesus he was the only one concerned about this new king. <i>All Jerusalem was disturbed by this news of a new king (Matthew 2:3).</i>	F
The wise men found Jesus lying in a manger in the town of Bethlehem. <i>Jesus was in a house by this time (Matthew 2:11).</i>	F
After the angels announcement the shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to see Jesus. <i>Correct. They were excited! They did not hesitate. They did not pass "Go" and stop to collect their \$200. Luke 2:15-16.</i>	T
Joseph married Mary immediately after the angel appeared to him. <i>Yes. His obedience was quick, cheerful and complete. Matthew 1:24.</i>	T
Some of the shepherds doubted and refused to believe the message they heard from the angels. <i>They went to see the baby right away, they spread the word, and they praised God for what they had been permitted to see and hear. No doubt there. Luke 2:15-20</i>	F