



Session 2:
Intimacy - Living Word 2



**Aims For this
session**

- ❑ For the children to continue to encounter God using their imaginations.
- ❑ To have the children interact with Jesus through the Holy Spirit during a Bible story.



Memory Verse

'Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.'

Jeremiah 33:3 (ESV)



Catch Up (10 mins)

Refer to the teaching notes for this term for guidance on how to run this section.



Healing (5 mins)

(This is based on teaching from Session 9, Term 2 of the curriculum. If you haven't done this session then see the teaching notes for this term.)

Is there something you would like healed? Or is there someone you know who is sick? If the answer is 'Yes', just put your hand up. Can the people around them please pray.

Remember to remind them to: ask, tell it to go, wait, see what God did and pray again. Allow the children time to do this. Then ask what God did.



God Spot (5 mins)

Resource:

- Yellow mat

Use your yellow mat. Ask the children what good things God has been doing in their life this week and ask them to come and share on the God spot while everyone else listens. (This is based on teaching from Session 6, Term 1. If you haven't done this session then refer to the teaching notes for this term.)

Last week we challenged you to ask God to remind you of Bible stories that you could imagine with Him. Does anyone want to share what God did? Did anyone help someone in their family to imagine a story? What happened?



Introduction (1 min)

Last week we talked about the Bible being a living thing, that its words can come alive. This week we are building on that idea. We are going to use our imaginations to help us meet with Jesus during a Bible story.





Game 1

(5 mins)

Resources:

- Cotton wool
- Vaseline
- x2 bowls per team

Separate the children into teams and have them sit on the floor. Place a bowl at a distance from each team filled with cotton wool. Place Vaseline in a container next to the bowl. Taking it in turns, each young person should crawl to their team's bowl, smear some Vaseline on their nose and then stick a piece of cotton wool on their nose. Once this is in place, they must crawl back to their team without the cotton wool falling off their nose. If it falls off, they must not use their hands to put it back on their nose. The first team back with cotton wool for each person, wins. If you have a small room sit the kids in a row and have them all smear Vaseline on their noses, then pass the cotton wool from nose to nose. The first team to have passed from front to back and back to the front again, wins.



Bible story

(5 mins)

Resource:

- A New Way to See - The 'Jesus Storybook Bible' or DVD, or the story of Saul's conversion from Acts 6-9.

This story comes after Jesus was killed, came back to life and after He left the disciples to return to His Father God. So we know people can meet Jesus because that's what happened to Saul. Meeting Jesus was so powerful for Saul that he turned his life around, chose to follow Jesus and changed his name. So meeting with Jesus is really powerful.

Testimony

(3 mins)

The lady who wrote this met with Jesus and it changed her life too. She had been suffering with terrible headaches for many years. These headaches are called migraines and they would last for days. Her head would hurt so much it hurt to put it on a pillow. She had to lie in a dark room and she felt like throwing up for days. It was horrible. She had to take very strong medicine.

One day, one of these headaches started but she wasn't at home. She was in a meeting with some other Christians. The leader of the meeting asked everyone to take some time to imagine a Bible story. The lady did this and, in the story, she imagined sitting at Jesus' feet. In her mind she imagined laying her head on Jesus' knee. Jesus put His hand on her head. Neither said anything then, after a while, He took His hand away and said, "Now go." In her mind she saw herself get up and leave the house where Jesus was and walk away.

She opened her eyes and realised that her headache was gone. What's more, the headaches have never come back and she was able to stop her medicine, much to the doctor's amazement.

DISCUSS

(5 mins)

- If you could meet Jesus, what questions would you ask Him?





Response

(5-10 mins)

Based on Matthew 19:13-15

We're going to take some time now to listen to a Bible story and, if you would like, you can imagine yourself in this story. You are one of the children who will meet Jesus. So, in the middle of the story, I'm going to stop and you're going to have some time to be with Jesus. It's going to be just you and Him. You'll be able to ask Him questions you thought of or talk to Him about anything. If you can't think of anything to say, do what the lady did in the testimony and just sit with Him in your imagination.

The sun was shining, the day was still cool because it was still early in the morning, but there was every chance that today was going to be hot and dusty as the sun rose further in the sky. The kids on the street had been talking the day before about a man who had come to our town who could do amazing things. They said this man could heal people who were sick; even bring them back from the dead! So we'd all agreed to meet up in the street at 8 o'clock and a whole bunch of us were going to go and see if we could find this man called Jesus.

Stepping out of the house, I could feel the building heat of the day and the sand on the road had already worked its way into my sandals. There were shouts of, 'Hi,' and 'Hello,' as all the kids gathered together. There was excitement in the air; today was a day for an adventure.

It wasn't difficult to work out where this man was; there were crowds of people travelling on the road, all headed for the same place. We just tagged along, playing games as we went, running in and out of people and chasing each other.

We arrived, and you could see loads of people; lots of them were adults and they were much bigger than us. We pushed our way to the front of the crowd. It was hard, sweaty work but we got to the front eventually – sometimes being small really helps. Then, after all that effort, a guy called Peter, a friend of Jesus', said we couldn't go any nearer. He said Jesus was too busy to deal with little kids.

Then Jesus stood up suddenly and said to His followers, "Leave those children alone! Don't stop them coming through. The kingdom of heaven belongs to these children." Jesus made some space around Him just for us. He called each of us by name and, one by one, we had a chance to sit and chat with Him on our own.



(Put time in here for God to move.)

It's time to go home now. So you stand up and start to walk away from Jesus in the crowd.



Reflect and Share

(5 mins)

Resources:

- Journals and pens

- *Does anyone want to share what Jesus said to them or how that felt?*
- *Did you enjoy being in the story? Was it easy to imagine? Give them a chance to record this in their journals.*

Explain to the children that they can do this at any time. All they need to do is read a passage that interests them a few times and then imagine it in their minds. They can place themselves on the street, in a tree, alongside someone – anywhere in the story. They can also ask questions of those they meet in the story or use it just to spend time sitting or walking with Jesus.



Talk

(5 mins)

It can be easy to wonder, 'Is it my imagination or is it really Jesus talking to me or holding me when I do this.' That's natural, but when God made you, He gave you an imagination. It's meant to be part of you and God will use it as one way to meet with you; we just need to ask some simple questions to help work out if it's God:

5-7 years

1. *Does it remind you of things the Bible says? For example, Jesus says He loves you and will never leave you - He said that in the Bible. Adults can help you work this out.*
2. *He won't tell you to do something that hurts someone else.*
3. *You can ask God to repeat the message in another way. Moses and Gideon did this. Remember to keep your eyes and ears open all week so you can catch what God says.*
4. *Ask an adult to help you work it out.*
5. *If Jesus asks you to do something, remember to keep yourself safe and involve an adult who can help you.*

8-10 years

1. *Does what happened line up with the things that are said in the Bible? For example, the lady who was healed when she met Jesus in her imagination experienced something Jesus does in the Bible all the time; He healed people. If Jesus holds you or wipes your tears away – the Bible says He will wipe every tear from your eye and that He will never leave you. If you don't know the Bible very well, you can ask an adult to help you work out where there is something in the Bible that covers what happened when you met with Jesus.*
2. *Jesus won't tell you to do something that hurts or harms someone else.*
3. *It's ok to say to God, 'If you really meant that, can you repeat it?' Both Moses and Gideon did this in the Bible. If you do this, remember to keep your eyes and ears open as you move through your week, because God could use anything from the TV to other people to repeat the message He gave you.*
4. *Ask one of us - or an adult you trust - to explain what Jesus said or did and they can help you work it out too.*
5. *God doesn't always tell you the things that you want to hear. Sometimes He challenges us to do hard things. Sometimes He reminds us of a mess we've made so we can fix our mess. Sometimes He shows us someone we've hurt so we can speak to the person and sort out the hurt. God does say things that can make us feel great too. It's just good to remember it won't be the only thing He does.*
6. *If Jesus asks you to do something, remember to keep yourself safe and involve an adult who can help you.*



Action

(5 mins)

This week, find a story in the Bible about Jesus that you like. Then practise imagining yourself in the story over and over again. See if different things happen each time you imagine the story. Come back next week and tell us what happened.



Game 2

(5 mins)

Resource:

- Hopscotch board(s)
- Appendix 1 – 1 per team

Print off Appendix 1 and cut into 10 sections. Then tape to a hopscotch board. Separate and mix up the tiles of the board. Have the children run and collect a tile one at a time and then try and reconstruct the words to form the memory verse for this session. Once constructed they should hop the board saying what is on each tile as they land. (One at a time!)



Resources for this session

God spot:

- Yellow mat

Game 1:

- Cotton wool
- Vaseline
- x2 bowls per team

Bible story:

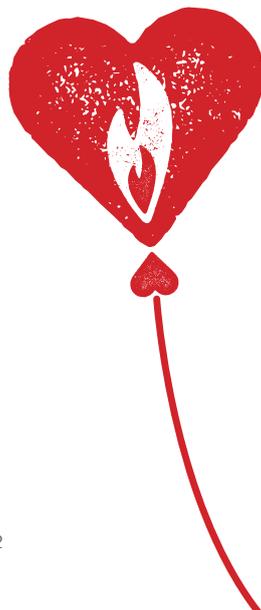
- A New Way to See - The 'Jesus Storybook Bible' or DVD, or the story of Paul's conversion from Acts 6-9.

Reflect and share:

- Journals and pens

Game 2:

- Hopscotch board http://www.amazon.co.uk/HOPSCOTCH-CHILDRENS-KIDS-INTERLOCKING-PUZZLE/dp/B00M718HHI/ref=sr_1_6?ie=UTF8&qid=1425657020&sr=8-6&keywords=hopscotch+kids (If you have a lot of children, split them into two teams and have two boards.)
- Appendix 1 – 1 per team





Parental communication

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our theme this week was: meeting Jesus through the Bible. Through Matthew 19:13-15 we explored what it was like to meet with Jesus using our imaginations.

In our response time we imagined ourselves meeting Jesus: we asked Him a question or we just sat with Him. This week is based on Lectio Divina, an ancient Christian form of meditation that is translated from the Latin to 'sacred reading'. It offers children and young people the chance to experience and explore scripture at a very deep level while using their imagination. Our imaginations are a gift from God. R. Paul Stevens says, "We cannot have faith (belief in what is unseen) unless we have imagination; imagination is the vehicle through which faith is expressed."¹ It is quite normal to question where your imagination ends and God starts, but this question can present two responses. The first is, it may not be God, therefore I won't engage in using something God placed in me when I was formed. The second is to choose to use your imagination and to apply discernment to what you encounter and hear. We will teach the children to discern and test what they experience as they move through the Bible stories. So, as you use this technique of listening to and imagining a story in your head, we encourage you to test what happens. Is it Biblical – i.e. does it reflect Biblical principles? In the story of Esther, one child using this method was told by Queen Esther that she was amazing, that with God she had the power to bring great change to the world. This was Biblical and had a massive impact on the eight year old who experienced God speaking to her through this passage. A second test this encounter would meet would be - Does it help the person to grow outwardly and inwardly with God? This method of reading can also help our children develop a real, deep love of God's word. So you may find they are much more likely to ask you to read Bible stories to them or ask you to find stories for them so they can read them.

If you would like to explore this subject in more depth, with further scriptural references, I recommend you read, chapters 1-5 of 'Can you hear me? Tuning in the God who Speaks' by Brad Jersak.

If you would like to journey with your child this week, talk with them about the questions you would ask Jesus if you could meet Him face to face. Then take some time to imagine yourself in a passage that includes Jesus. Allow yourself time to sit with Jesus and ask Him your questions - or just sit. Have them play or read while you do this. Then share with your child what you experienced during that time.

Next week, we will be thinking about finding a special place to spend time with God based on Moses and the tent of meeting.

Love

¹ R. Paul Stevens in Brad Jersak, 'Can you hear me? Tuning in to the God who Speaks'. Ch. 4