



A RESOURCE FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

ON THE WAY

THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

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A Christian Nurture Course for young people

ST MARYS CF10

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Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
SESSION 1: HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU	4
SESSION 2: ULTIMATE TUNES	7
SESSION 3: A STAR IS BORN	9
SESSION 4: THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT	11
SESSION 5: TEMPLE TRAIL	13
SESSION 6: GETTING THINGS STRAIGHT	15
SESSION 7: GROUND FORCE	17
SESSION 8: TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN	19
SESSION 9: MISSION APOSTLE-BLE	21
SESSION 10: PEOPLE TO SEE	23
SESSION 11: THE BIG CITY	25
SESSION 12: CROSS-ROADS	27
SESSION 13: ALIVE AND WELL	28
SESSION 14: HIGH PLACES	30
SESSION 15: WIND AND FLAME	32
RESOURCES	34

INTRODUCTION

These resources were initially created a few years ago, an ambitious project that created online resources for catechists and young people preparing for Confirmation.

The original idea provided session outlines to be led in-person by catechists which could then be followed up by young people at home by visiting the website where they'd find lots of additional resources. However, that resource eventually became unavailable and we have revisited all of this material, updated it a little, and re-produced it in several publications.

The material, whilst originally designed as a confirmation course, can be used and adapted for use at any time, and whilst there is a progression through the sessions, each session can also be used as a stand-alone activity.

Each session has a number of different ideas to explore the particular theme. Just choose which is more appropriate to your situation or come up with your own ideas.

There is also an associated publication of Liturgies and celebrations which includes an idea for prayer at the end of a particular session, as well as liturgical celebrations for various special occasions.

On the Way

The 15 sessions take us chronologically through the Gospel according to St Luke, and much use is made of the Catechism of the Church in Wales – but, of course, if you're outside of Wales then you'll be able to adapt this to your own resources and tradition.

Throughout the gospel according to Luke, Jesus sets his face towards Jerusalem, and so we use this movement to express the idea of Christians being on a journey, followers of the Way, the Truth and the Life.

The Church in Wales welcomes and allows children to receive Communion before they have been confirmed, and the use of this material should take into account the circumstances of each young person in the group. For example, some may already be baptised and receiving Holy Communion, some will be presently un-baptised, whilst others may be baptised, not receiving communion, and may want to wait until they have been confirmed!

This course can be used for any or all of these!

Supporting Resources

As explained above, other associated resources are available or being prepared, including:

On the Way 2 - A shorter version of this course, consisting of five sessions

Gathering in -closing Liturgy and Prayers for each session, gathering together all that has been explored.

Celebrations along the Way including Liturgy of Anticipation and Celebration of Reconciliation.

The Journey of a Lifetime – a little guide for young people on the Christian Way – an e-book for young people.

We hope this resource will be of some use to you in your important work of encouraging and nurturing young people in the Christian Way.

Please check out our website www.stmaryscf10.com for lots more resources!

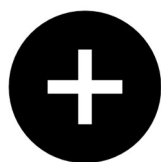
SESSION 1: HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU

LUKE 1:26-45



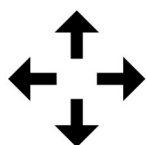
AIMS

- To explore the moment when Mary is given the news that she has been chosen to be the Mother of Jesus (commonly known as *'The Annunciation'*)
- To help us see that God has good news for the world today



EXTRAS

- To look briefly at Baptism and Confirmation as the young people's moment of decision
- To look at how the record of God's revelation is found in the Scriptures



OPENING ACTIVITY

Have a selection of newspapers ready: tabloid and broadsheet, national and local. If it's appropriate, divide the young people into groups. Give each group a selection of newspapers and ask them to find one item of good news, one item of bad news, and one item of humorous news. Give them five or ten minutes to do this and then allow them to report back to the whole group with the news they have chosen. Ask them why they chose it, what the news is about and how it affects them.

You will need: various newspapers (national, local, tabloid and broadsheet)



INTO THE GOSPEL

Read the 'Newspaper Report' from the Resource Sheet for this Session. At the heart of the Christian Life is 'good news': the good news of Jesus. In fact, that is the meaning of the word 'gospel'. There are four gospels in the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John that tell, in different ways, the good news of Jesus

Perhaps show them the Book of the Gospels if your parish has one. Remind them that, at the Eucharist, we stand to listen to the Gospel as a sign of reverence and alertness – ready to listen and share the news with others. More attention is often drawn to it with accompanying lights procession, and an acclamation to welcome).

This doesn't mean, of course, that life will always be easy or that we won't have to deal with bad news, as Mary herself found out. However, it does mean that we have something exciting and wonderful to share with others. Mary was chosen to receive the good news of Jesus. She had the faith and courage to say 'Yes' to God so that Jesus could be made flesh in her life and so that she could offer him to the waiting world.

Read: Luke 1:26 - 45



DISCUSS

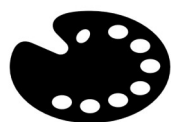
How do you think Mary felt when she heard the news? What would *your* answer have been to the angel? Mary shared the good news with her cousin Elizabeth in the hill country. If you were given some really good news who would you tell first? In what ways did the news given to Mary change her life? In what ways do you think the news given to Mary changed the world? How is the message of Jesus 'news' to people? Is it old news or news for today? Have there been times when you've heard something from a Gospel reading, for example in church, that has made you sit up and think – have you been surprised by the news?



BE CREATIVE

Get the young people to write a newspaper report of their own. Perhaps use the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth as a source. If they have time you could really go to town by using Desktop Publishing, perhaps using photographs of local sites (e.g. take a photograph of an ordinary house in the community as the home of Mary, a local mountain shot as the 'hill country' where Elizabeth lived, a 'workshop' or factory unit as Joseph's Carpentry workshop, etc).

You will need: large sheets of paper, pens (or access to PC and printer and digital camera)



BE CRAFTY

Either:

Get them to make a prayer cross by sticking bits of newspaper prints and stories etc to a small cross (which can be made out of wood or thick card). This cross can be used to help us in prayer to remind us of the good news of Jesus in a world where there is often bad news. Alternatively, make one large cross to which the whole group contributes. When the cross is finished it could be varnished (spray varnish is available from craft shops).

You will need: crosses made from thick card, newspapers, glue (varnish – if you need it)

Or:

Get the young people to make a cover for the Gospel Book. Show them the Gospel Book and explain how it is used. In many churches, the Book is carried in procession and placed on the altar at the beginning of the Eucharist. Then, accompanied by lights, it is carried to the lectern where the Gospel is proclaimed. The people also sing an acclamation to welcome the Gospel and prepare to listen and receive the Good News.

You will need: paper, pens, or cloth and other material, glue, etc



BE DRAMATIC

Have a role play session where the young people act out a TV Interview for the News or a chat show. Characters could include Mary, Gabriel, Joseph, Mary's Parents (Anne and Joachim), Elizabeth (Mary's cousin), next-door neighbours, etc. You could even use video or audio facilities to record it!



EXTRAS

The Scriptures

You may also wish to use this session to explore the Gospels in particular, but also the Scriptures in general. Get familiar with the Bible – it's structure, it's books, how to read it, etc. 'The Bible is the record of God's revelation of himself to mankind through his people Israel, and above all in his Son, Jesus Christ.' (40).

Perhaps organise a game to increase familiarity with the Bible. For example, write out names of books of the Bible on separate cards and ask the group to place them in order. Give them a Bible to help. Or give each person a random card with Bible books on them and the young people have to find the others from the same Testament, forming two groups. Or, give each person a bible, read out the name of a book and the young people have to find it in the Bible. When everyone finds the book talk briefly about what kind of book it is. Choose different types, for example: gospel, letter, prophecy, etc

Confirmation

Although Baptism and Confirmation is dealt with more fully in Sessions 6 and 15, this may be an ideal time to talk about them, and the path in life the young people have decided to take. By asking for Confirmation they are saying 'Yes' to God at a very important stage in their lives - just like Mary! In Confirmation they 'make a mature expression of the commitment to Christ made at Baptism' (The Church in Wales Catechism, 57). Ask them why they are being confirmed. Who helped them to make the decision? Was it an easy decision to make? Has anyone felt any pressure by anybody to make the decision? Do they feel 'mature' enough to make the decision? How different is their faith and belief from, say, five years ago? How do they want it to continue to grow?

SESSION 2: ULTIMATE TUNES

LUKE 1:46-55



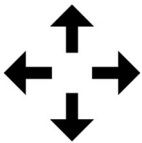
AIMS

- To explore the words of Mary (commonly known as *The Magnificat*) after Elizabeth had greeted her as the Mother of her Lord (commonly known as *The Visitation*)
- To help us see how God works in our lives today



EXTRAS

- To begin to look at the importance of prayer and worship



OPENING ACTIVITY

Imagine you are being sent to a Desert Island and can only take five tunes with you. What would they be? Why? How do they make you feel? What's so good or special about them? Is it the group or singer, the lyrics, the music? What are your Desert Island Discs? If you have prepared the young people the week before and if you have time and it's practical you could even play some of the songs (or part of them).



INTO THE GOSPEL

Read the *Interview with the Mother of Jesus* from the Resource Sheet for this Session. End either by reading a modern copy of the words of the Song of Mary (*Magnificat*) or play a version of it from Cassette or CD.

Explain that these words have become a favourite song of the church, sung (or said) every day at Evening Prayer. Have a copy of the words available for the group. The words show that Mary is overjoyed at being chosen. She knows that God has great things in store for her and - even more importantly - for her child.

Read Luke 1: 46 -55



DISCUSS

What is Mary singing about? What characteristics of God does Mary sing about? Are there any phrases in Mary's words that stand out for you? Why? What kind of things do you think God asks of us? Do we accept his calling with joy? In what ways are Mary's words either a challenge or a comfort to different people in different circumstances? Can you see the connection between worship (*My soul rejoices in God my Saviour*) and putting our faith into action in the world (*He casts down the mighty, raises the lowly*)? Can they ever be separated? How does our worship look outwards or help us to see where God is working in the world?

Find out about the work of organisations like Christian Aid, Fairtrade, Amnesty International, who work for justice in the world. You could adopt one of the projects – or get the young people to write an Action Plan as to how they could make a difference. For example, Christian Aid encourage people to write to politicians about specific issues. It could mean encouraging parents to buy fair-trade products, etc. Think about how the Prayer of the Faithful at the Eucharist could include lots of different issues in the community and throughout the world. Get the young people to think of different things and people to pray for. Could they write and read the Intercessions at the Sunday Eucharist?



BE CREATIVE

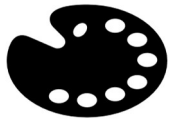
Either:

Get the young people write their own lyrics for a song of joy for what God has given you or what he has done for the world and for you. In other words, write your own Magnificat! Begin with the words: "My soul rejoices in God because..."

Or:

Take a well-known song/tune and write new lyrics using the words and sentiments of the Magnificat

You will need: paper and pens



BE CRAFTY

Either:

Get the young people to decorate a Black CD (which are cheaply available from Computer Stores) or they could make a cardboard one from a template. Using Permanent Markers or felt tip pens get them to write some or all the words of the Magnificat on it. The young people can either take them home for their own use to hang in the wall, or you could make a mobile, using coat

You will need: blank CDs, string or twine and coat hanger (if making a mobile)

Or:

Have a Kite making activity! Kite making kits are easily and cheaply available, or start from scratch and make your own. Once the kite is made, write the words, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord."

You will need: Kite making kit or pea sticks, sellotape, glue, pens or paints, strong paper



BE DRAMATIC

Using the various Situations (from the Resource Sheet) of people in different situations, get members of the group to adopt the characters and tell you (in their own words) how the words and sentiments of the Magnificat affect them. Alternatively, play a 'modern' version of the Magnificat and ask the group to create their own actions to the music. Another option is to role-play having a panel of judges or reviewers - as seen on TV programmes like *Pop Idol* or *Fame*

Academy. People take on different characters (such as music producer, singer, TV presenter, etc) and comment on Mary's song. Perhaps you could play a copy of the Magnificat to help with this.

You will need: Situation Cards



EXTRAS

Worship

'Worship is my response to God's love: first, by joining with others in the Church's corporate offering of prayer, celebration of the sacraments and reading his holy Word; secondly, by acknowledging him as the Lord of my life, and by doing my work for his honour and glory' (36). Worship is something we do every-day – not only when we are in church. This means we worship God in everything we do, whether it's studying, playing football, washing the dishes, or feeding the cat!

Lots of Prayers in the Celtic tradition are about ordinary everyday things. You may want to share some with them, especially if you have any resources from the Iona Community.

Find out about 24/7 prayer – prayer round the clock. This is a modern phenomenon based on the tradition of the Religious Life. In the Rule of St Benedict we read: 'To work is to pray'. Their whole life of work and prayer is continuous. Talk with the group about what this may mean.

Why not get the young people to write prayers about ordinary everyday things. For example, have various everyday items such as mug, toothbrush, mobile phone, wallet, skateboard, etc. Alternatively, ask the young people the week before to bring in one small item each that means something to them. Place the objects in the centre. Ask them to choose one and to think about a prayer associated with it. For example, the mobile phone could spark prayers about listening, talking, friends, being in touch, etc. A pair of glasses could inspire a prayer about vision, seeing clearly, focussing, etc. Worship is also dealt with in Session 14.

SESSION 3: A STAR IS BORN

LUKE 2: 1-7(8-21)



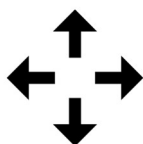
AIMS

- To explore the birth of Jesus, and to help us see that he is Emmanuel, God with us



EXTRAS

- To begin to look at the Nicene Creed



OPENING ACTIVITY

Either:

Ask the young people (the week before) to bring in photographs of themselves when they were babies, and then make a display. Tell them not to show their photograph to each other. Then play a game, asking them to match each other to their baby picture!

Or:

If that's not possible ask them to retell some embarrassing tales about themselves when they were small children! Stories that their parents or brothers and sisters may remind them of from time to time! To make it more fun, get them to write them on a piece of paper and read them out to the group who have to guess who it belongs to.



INTO THE GOSPEL

When looking at the photographs it's difficult to believe that your friends were like that! That they were once cute and cuddly! Perhaps, you're parents have said that to you when they've seen other

people's babies 'It's difficult to believe that you used to be like that!'

Read Luke 2:1-7.

That's our picture, our image, of Jesus: as a small, helpless baby. Yet this baby is God in the flesh! It's difficult to believe isn't it that God used to be like that! But that goes to show both the love and the risk that God is willing to take for the whole world. We call this act of God being human the 'Incarnation'. Think about how amazing it is. God has created the whole universe but comes to us as a small, helpless child, who relies on Mary and Joseph for survival! And not only that – he isn't born into comfortable surroundings. He is, for a short time, homeless as well as helpless. He is excluded rather than included. And who are the first visitors to greet this arrival? Not VIPs or celebrities, not family or neighbours bearing gifts and flowers, but some stranger shepherds who've been sleeping outdoors with their sheep!



DISCUSS

What do you think The Incarnation says about God? What does it say about human beings and how God feels towards us? (Perhaps write the answers on each side of a flip chart, with a line drawn down the middle) How do you think the act of God becoming like us changes things? In what ways is Jesus the same as ordinary human beings? In what ways is he different? (Again, use a flip chart). How much of a risk do you think God was taking? What is the risk? Why do you think God decided to become part of human life in this particular way? How do you think the shepherds felt? What kind of emotions were they feeling? How do you think people responded to their news? How do you respond to God in Jesus?

You will need: a flipchart and pens (if you wish to use one)



BE CREATIVE

Either:

Some parents like to keep a 'Baby Book' recording all the information about their new child, such as birth date and place, colour eyes, first visitors and the gifts

they brought, first lock of hair, first word and when they spoke it, information about their baptism, etc. You may even have one at home (you could also ask the young people to bring these in, if their parents will let them!). Get the young people to make a short baby book about Jesus, perhaps just a page or two. Get the young people to design their own or use the format from the Resource Sheet.

Or:

Look at the words of Graham Kendrick's Hymn 'The Servant King.' They speak very powerfully about the Incarnation. Try to write your own similar verses, or take a look at different carols and Christmas hymns and how they represent the birth of Jesus. You could do the same with pictures and paintings from Christmas cards, etc. A useful resource is USPG's Born Among Us. Which ones appeal most to the young people and why? What do they express about the Incarnation?

You will need: Paper and Pens, copy of 'The Servant King' or Christmas Carols, or nativity images.



BE CRAFTY

Decorate some Christmas Tree Balls with symbols and phrases that express the Incarnation, such as 'The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us' (John 1) and other phrases from the Gospels or 'God became like us, so we could become like God' (St. Augustine). Come up with your own phrases. Use permanent markers or paints. If you don't have access to Christmas decorations, make your own balls using paper mache and string. The globes remind us of the globe of the world and the fact that in Jesus God has come into the world in a particular way.

You will need: Christmas Tree Decorations (or paper and string to make your own), marker pens, paints



BE DRAMATIC

Role Play a comic situation when Mary and Joseph goes to register the baby's birth! What's the reaction of the Registrar! Especially when they say things like, 'He was born in a barn.' And when they're asked the father's name. Have more than just three characters by having the registrar calling in his colleague because he finds it all unbelievable!



EXTRAS

The Creed

Look at the Apostles Creed and/or the Nicene Creed (a summary of the Christian faith in the Catechism, 8) and what it says about Jesus. He isn't just an ordinary human being who becomes great. He was with and of the Father before the events of Christmas but *'for us and our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.'* Jesus is God in the flesh. We believe in a 'down to earth' God who is involved in the life of his world.

Using the Resource Sheet for this Session cut out various phrases of the Nicene Creed onto different cards and get the young people to put them together in the right order. To make it more fun split them into teams and set them against the clock!

The Gloria

The Gloria is an ancient hymn of praise, probably dating from as early as the second century. It has been a feature of the Eucharist from the fifth century. The opening line of the hymn is taken from Scripture, where the angels announce the birth of Christ to the shepherds. Perhaps these words could be used to decorate the Christmas Tree Balls in the Be Crafty suggestion. Look at the words of the hymn. What do they say about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit?

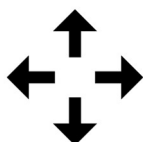
SESSION 4: THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT

LUKE 2: 25-35



AIMS

- To explore the presentation of Jesus in the Temple (commonly known as *Candlemas*)
- To help us see that with Jesus the future is bright.



OPENING ACTIVITY

Ask the young people to write what career they would like to have when they leave school/college. Place them in a container and then read them out one by one. See if the rest of the group can guess which person it belongs to. Ask them what other plans or ambitions they have for the future. What are their hopes and dreams? What's the one thing they really want to do? Where would they like to be in 5, 10 or 15 years from now? Or do they have plans for next year?



INTO THE GOSPEL

Read *Simeon's Story* from the Resource Sheet for this Session. His one ambition in life was to see Jesus, 'The Chosen One'. God had promised him that he would not die until that dream was fulfilled. He was an old man – perhaps there had been times when he doubted that this promise would be fulfilled, yet he remained faithful. When he did set eyes on Jesus he knew that he could die a happy man. In a way, it doesn't matter what our plans are for the future, or what our dreams are – as long as we can see Jesus in them, or long to see him in them.

Read Luke 2:25 - 35



DISCUSS

When Simeon praised God he said that Jesus was 'a light'. In what ways do you think Jesus lights up the world? In what ways are people living in darkness? Simeon told Mary that her heart would be pierced. What do you think he was talking about? When was Mary at her saddest? Do you think Mary and Joseph were confused by what was happening? Have there been occasions when you just couldn't wait for things to happen? How do you feel about the future? Scared, apprehensive, excited? In spite of all the bad things that may happen and threaten us, with Jesus the future is bright.



BE CREATIVE

If possible have a large white sheet and fabric pens available (if this isn't possible, a 'large' sheet of paper will do). Ask the young people to think about three things: their hopes and dreams for the World, for the Church and for themselves. Explain that this large sheet is their 'Dream Sheet.' Give them some time to think about what their dreams could be. Play some quiet and reflective music (such as Taize music) while they are writing their dreams.

You will need: large sheet and fabric pens, CD player and reflective music



BE CRAFTY

If you have time get the young people to make their own candles using candle making kits available in craft shops, or decorate candles with various materials

(such as foil, etc). Another option would be to make and decorate candle-holders using foil dishes.

You will need: Candle making kits or candles, foil dishes, glue, foil shapes and other materials to decorate the candles and/or dishes.



BE DRAMATIC

Either:

Act out the Drama Mime 'Jesus is the Light' from the Resource Sheet, with suggestions of actions from the young people, or use it as a rap, with different voices, etc.

Or:

Get the group to write a drama or perform a role play featuring Simeon and Anna – perhaps they meet each other when walking home, or set it in a shop or the post office, maybe collecting their pension!

SESSION 5: TEMPLE TRAIL

LUKE 2: 41-52



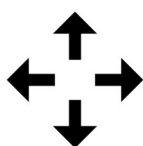
AIMS

- To explore the incident of Jesus lost in Jerusalem
- To help us see our life as a journey, or pilgrimage



EXTRAS

- To begin to look at the Ten Commandments



OPENING ACTIVITY

If possible, have a large map of the world available or even just a map of this country. Pin point the different places where members of the group have visited. Discuss how they got there, how long it took, any particular problems encountered. If you could go anywhere in the world you haven't been to then where would it be? Who would you go with? Why?

You will need: A map, pins



INTO THE GOSPEL

Read the Travel Reps Drama from the Resource Sheet for this Session. Pilgrimage was (and is) important to the Jewish people and Jerusalem was an important

city. Transport, though, wasn't so easy for people two thousand years ago as it is for us. Jesus made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem with Mary and Joseph. It was a very joyful occasion. He was twelve years old, which means that, in Jewish eyes, he was becoming a man. Mary and Joseph were reminded of this when he answered them, 'Did you not realise that I would be in my Father's house.' Jesus is the Son of God. It's a very strong declaration about who he is.

Read Luke 2: 41 - 52



DISCUSS

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt? How did Jesus feel? In a way, even Mary and Joseph didn't understand Jesus. Are there times when you feel that you're misunderstood by your parents? Are you able to talk to them? Do they listen? Are you a good listener? Jesus has a captive audience - people who listened to him and were attentive to him. Do you make time to listen to Jesus? Pilgrimage takes a great effort. What efforts have you made to be with Jesus? What difficulties have you had to overcome? Have you missed opportunities because you couldn't make an extra effort?



BE CREATIVE

Get the young people to write an imaginary Postcard that Jesus, Mary and Joseph may have written to friends at home who were unable to make the Pilgrimage Festival. What would they have seen, felt or experienced?

You will need: Postcards and pens



BE CRAFTY

Either:

Draw around footprints and write prayers. This is probably more appropriate for the younger ones. Perhaps split the group into prayers to draw around each other's foot as a reminder that we make our journey together. You could make it messy by making a collage out of all the prayer footprints.

You will need: paper or card, pens and scissors

Or:

If you're not using the 'Travel Document' idea for this course, you could make a simple travel document with tickets, itinerary, etc. You can just use ordinary ring binders. Make it a Travel Document of Life – with interesting stops and features, details of the journey, final destination, etc. You could do the same thing by making a Passport, with the young people adding their details and helping them to see life as a journey.

You will need: paper, files, pens, scissors



BE DRAMATIC

Get the young people to role-play different scenes from the story. Perhaps begin by imagining the scene in the house as Jesus, Mary and Joseph prepare for their exciting journey. What did they pack for the journey? Did they have to get up early? Alternatively, get the young people to create a drama from the perspective of a Holiday or Travel Show showing what pilgrimage is like, what mode of transport you can use to get there, what's available at the destination, why people would make the journey, who it's suitable for. You'll need one or two presenters and a few people to 'interview'. Incorporate characters from the gospel, including Mary, Joseph, the extended family, the teachers, people who work in the temple, etc.



EXTRAS

The Ten Commandments

Jesus was brought up in the Jewish Faith, and was well versed in the Scriptures and the Jewish way of life. He would have learnt his faith at home from his parents and in the synagogue. For us, as for Jesus, the Ten Commandments are an important part of faith, because in them we learn '*my duty to God and my duty to my neighbour*' (29). Have a look at the Ten Commandments (28). Get the candidates to put the Ten Commandments into contemporary, 'street' language. As an example, have a look at what Rob Lacey does with them in *The Word on the Street*. Or give each young person a card with one of the Ten Commandments written on them. Ask them to think about what it may mean for them today. Have a look at the way the Ten Commandments are used in the Modern Rite of the Church in Wales Holy Eucharist, and how they are interpreted and used to help us confess our sins to God.

SESSION 6: GETTING THINGS STRAIGHT

LUKE 3:1-20



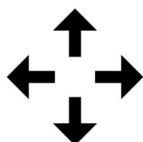
AIMS

- To see John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus by preaching a Baptism of Repentance
- To help us look at our own Baptism as a new beginning in Christ.



EXTRAS

- To look at the Ministry of Absolution



OPENING ACTIVITY

Ask the young people for their favourite actors and their favourite film in which that actor starred. What was so special about it? What character did he or she play? What attracts you to the actor? What was good or attractive about the character he/she played? Take votes from the nominations. Perhaps you could have a mock award ceremony, like the Oscars.



INTO THE GOSPEL

Read the *Exclusive Interview* Drama from the Resource Sheet. John the Baptist was a very colourful and interesting character. People certainly would have

taken notice of him – especially of what he said. His message was really powerful. He preached a baptism of Repentance, which means turning away from sin.

Read Luke 3:1-20



DISCUSS

What was strange about John the Baptist? Why do you think he upset some people? In what ways did he prepare the way of the Lord? How can you prepare a way for Jesus in your own life? What things do you need to get straight? Are there obstacles in your life - things that get between you and God? Are there any particular difficulties in being a young Christian? Do you feel supported by your friends? Do they understand? Do you feel supported by the church? Christian baptism is baptism into Christ so that we become part of him. It's a beginning of a new life, when God removes the obstacles of sin.



BE CREATIVE

When a film is being made, the Film Makers will have a Story Board to illustrate each scene. Complete a 'Story Board' for the Baptism of Jesus scene. (A frame is available in the Resource Sheet for this Session) Ask the young people to come up with their own Film Name.

You will need: photocopy of storyboard in the Appendix



BE CRAFTY

In South America, children are given 'God's Eyes' to celebrate their birthdays. These are sticks fastened in to a cross shape and woven with coloured wool. Baptism is like a birthday because we begin a new life with Jesus. Make 'God's Eye' out of four rods and

wool, explaining its significance for us as a reminder of our baptism

You will need: peasticks, wool, sellotape, scissors, glue.



BE DRAMATIC

Act out the scene *On the Road*, (from the Resource Sheet) perhaps getting the young people to expand it by adding more lines of their own.



EXTRAS

Holy Baptism

Use this as an opportunity to explore the Sacrament of Baptism 'in which, through the action of the Holy Spirit, we are made Christ's' (46). We are given 'union with Christ in his death and resurrection, the forgiveness of sins, and a new birth into God's family, the Church' (41). Through Baptism we belong to Jesus, we belong to the Church. Ask the young people what things they belong to. What responsibilities are there to belonging? What about the Church? What does it mean to belong to God? How does the use of water in Baptism symbolise what happens spiritually? For example, washing away sins, refreshing, renewing, bringing life, etc. Have all member of the groups been baptised? Do they remember it? Baptism is an initiation rite – through which we are made members of the Church. In Baptism we are marked with the sign of the cross. Just like a sheep is branded with the mark of its shepherd, so we are marked with the mark of the one we belong to!

Absolution

You may like to talk about the Ministry of Absolution (also known as Confession or Reconciliation) that's available, when 'those who are truly sorry for their sins' can 'confess their sins to God freely and fully in the presence of a priest (and) receive through his

ministry the forgiveness of Almighty God' (61). Why do you think this rite is useful? Why do some people use it and others don't? If it's appropriate to your church tradition you may like to talk to the group about making their first confession. This could either be done here or the week before the Confirmation. There are also ideas for a liturgy in the Celebrations Section

SESSION 7: GROUND FORCE

LUKE 4:1-14



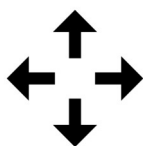
AIMS

- To look at Jesus' time in the wilderness as a time of testing and decision making
- To help us see how Jesus helps us make decisions in life.



EXTRAS

- To look at the Lord's Prayer and what we mean by Grace



OPENING ACTIVITY

Using the *People and Jobs* Resource cards (from the Resource Sheet for this Session) ask the group to arrange the names beginning with the hardest and ending with the easiest job, with an explanation for their choices. It's interesting to split them into two or more groups to see the difference. Ask the young people who they think has the most difficult job in the world. What kinds of challenges would they face? What are they up against? Who is there to help them? Think about politicians, world leaders, doctors, actors, footballers, etc.



INTO THE GOSPEL

Read the *Ground Force* drama from the Handout. Jesus went into the wilderness to sort things out. He had to make some tough decisions. Would he face up to the challenge of doing what God wanted or would he take the easy option? The wilderness was challenging. However, he was determined to do what God wanted him to do, even though he was tempted to do otherwise.

Read Luke 4: 1 –14



DISCUSS

It's important that we try to face up to challenging situations. What challenging situations have you encountered? Did you feel like giving up? Were you helped by anyone? What decisions have you made, or will you have to make later in life, that will or would take you in a certain direction? What people are around us to help us make particular decisions? Can you think of any decisions that you or your family have made which have affected where you are in life? What factors played an important part in making a certain decision? Remember, we are not alone when facing up to the challenges of life.



BE CREATIVE

Create your own wilderness scene in a tray by using dirt, sand, dust, stones, twigs, etc. If appropriate you could plant some quick growing seeds such as watercress and see how the wilderness is transformed over the week! Alternatively, write a meditation prayer based on the theme of wilderness, barrenness, challenge and temptation.

You will need: trays – foil trays for baking will do, sand or soil/dirt, twigs, stones, etc, seeds (if you need them)



BE CRAFTY

Take some pebbles or rocks and decorate them by painting a cross or other Christian sign, words or images that inspire and reflect. Alternatively, collect some dry twigs or sticks and bind them into a cross. How can they be used to aid us in prayer or devotion? (Visual Aid, Holding Stone, etc.)

You will need: pebbles, paints, brushes



BE DRAMATIC

Either:

Use the Dilemmas (from the Appendix) or come up with your own to initiate debate about what we would do in certain circumstances. Either give the multiple choices or to come up with their own responses. What factors influenced their decision? Where do you look for guidance and advice?

Or:

Play Dilemma Lane by giving a situation of an individual to one young person and arranging two rows of chairs facing each other. Each person is given a character in the situation such as the person's mother, boyfriend, teacher, priest, dog. As the chosen person walks down the alley each person speaks about the situation from their point of view and gives their comments or feelings. Discuss the results.

in the light of Jesus experience in the Wilderness. Can they rewrite the Lord's Prayer in contemporary terms? Again, you may like to see what Rob Lacey does in his book, *The Word on the Street*. One word for the help that God gives us is 'grace'. In the catechism we are taught that grace is '*the help that God gives me; by his grace my sins are forgiven, and I am inspired and strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit.*' (34). Talk about what kind of help they need and get from different people and in different situations. Get the young people to create a mnemonic with the letters G, R, A, C, E, expressing the meaning of 'grace.'



EXTRAS

Grace

Jesus taught us to pray to God for help ('Give us this day our daily bread' and 'Lead us not into temptation'). Look at the words of the Lord's Prayer

SESSION 8: TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

LUKE 4:14-30 (31-44; 6:20ff)



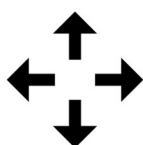
AIMS

- To explore what is meant by the Kingdom of God
- To help us see that we too have a part to play in helping to build that kingdom.



EXTRAS

- To look at our duty to our neighbour and what it means to be a member of the Church



OPENING ACTIVITY

Whenever there is a General Election, the political parties produce what's called a 'manifesto'. It tells people how they would run the country if we elect them to power. They have to convince people that they would do a better job than anyone else! Imagine if you could be elected – and that you could rule the world! What would you do? What would you change? What would you do if you ruled the world? Remember to point out that some people have actually tried to rule the world or dominate countries, to disastrous and horrible consequences.



INTO THE GOSPEL

Jesus had something very important to say. But his listeners couldn't believe what he was saying! They

thought he was just the Son of a Carpenter. But as we can see from his claim, Jesus came to bring good news, freedom, healing and justice. He came to proclaim the Kingdom of God that reverses the values of the world. In The Gospel of Luke, Jesus declares, 'The Kingdom of God is very near.' By the term 'The Kingdom of God,' Jesus meant the reign of God, where God was king! Jesus gave a clear description of what the reign of God was all about when he stood up and spoke in the synagogue at Nazareth after his baptism. In Luke 6: 20ff, at the Sermon on the plain, Jesus explains in a very powerful way how the values and situations of the world will be changed.

Read Luke 4: 18 –19.



DISCUSS

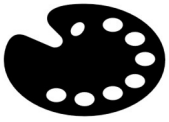
Jesus came to announce the Kingdom of God. Can you think of times when you have glimpsed the kingdom of God? That is, times of justice, peace, reconciliation, generosity, selflessness, charity, etc. How do you think we, as a local church and as individuals, can reveal the kingdom to others? Can you get involved in any issues of social action? How can you help to improve the lives of others? How can you help to reverse situations of injustice and hatred? Do you know of any groups or organisations that campaign for justice and peace? You may want to compare the values and images of the Kingdom of God to the values or different countries, organisations, events, leaders, and so on. Also, is there a difference between 'social' and 'community' work and Christian work? Where is God in them? How is God recognised and acknowledged?



BE CREATIVE

Get the young people to write a manifesto of their ideas about the Kingdom (or Reign) of God in the world. Perhaps put they could put their main points or promises on a credit card shaped piece of card, which could be laminated, and carried in their wallets. Perhaps on the other side they can write some manifesto promises about what they will try to do to contribute to God's kingdom.

You will need: paper, pens, card, scissors, laminating pouches and laminator (if needed)



BE CRAFTY

Make a mural with the words “The kingdom of God is...” accompanied by various suggestions from the young people. Perhaps cut out pictures and images from magazines and newspapers to give a ‘visual picture’ of what the kingdom of God is like. Use images from the many parables of Jesus as featured in the Gospel of Luke.

You will need: large sheet of paper, old magazines and newspapers, glue, felt pens, paint and brushes.



BE DRAMATIC

If you have time, hold a mock election with people standing for different issues. Use the manifestos. Role Play a political debate by giving people particular characteristics or issues to campaign for. Ask questions from a Christian point of view. Interview the Candidates.



EXTRAS

Duty to our neighbour

In the Catechism we are taught that we have a duty to our neighbour ‘*to seek justice, freedom and the necessities of life for all people and to fulfil my duties as a citizen*’ (31). How can we do this? For instance, sometimes, by silence we can ‘let others be wrongly condemned.’ Have there been times when we haven’t spoken up? How can we make our voice heard when faced with injustice – both within our own personal lives and in the world at large? God continues his reconciling work through the Church. The Church does this ‘*as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel and serves God’s will in promoting justice, peace and love in all the world.*’ (19) ‘*through the*

ministry of all its members’ (20). What does your local church do through its members? Not just organised parish projects but things that individual members do – from working in Charity Shops to helping out in schools or community groups, being a good friend, helping others we never considered to be our friend, Think about different vocations. What ministries do people exercise in your parish? For example, visiting, reading, sacristy, youth leader, Sunday School teacher, cleaner, flower arranging, etc. What gifts do they have? What kind of people are they? Next week, there will be an opportunity to look at the ministry of bishops, priests and deacons.

The Church

The Church is described as ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC and APOSTOLIC. Have a look at the meaning of these words in the Catechism. Think of them as being a character definition of the church. Get the young people to write a character description of their family or friends. What does the character description of the church say about the people we are? Alternatively, think of the words as being a Mission Statement about the Church. How do we and can we put this statement into action? How do we fail to live up to this definition? Think about the meaning of the different words and how we live up to and fail them. For example:

One – together, one heart and mind, yet we are divided – different denominations, even separated within our own church community. What divisions are there? Is there room for tolerance? When should people be ‘corrected’ if it all? What can we do to grow together? What do you do when different groups think they are right and the others are wrong?

Holy – Set apart, filled with God’s presence, yet also sinful, human, making mistakes. How do we become holy people? What can we do about our mistakes and sinfulness?

Catholic – universal, worldwide, yet often we are very inward looking and parochial. What about the wider picture? In what ways are we too inward looking? What about the concerns of the individualism versus the needs of the community? Which is more important?

Apostolic – sent out to share the faith, yet often we are too comfortable or scared to be outward looking. We will look at what it means to be an Apostle next week.

SESSION 9: MISSION APOSTLE- BLE

LUKE 9:1-6



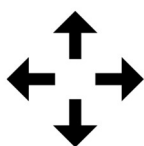
AIMS

- To explore what it means to be an Apostle
- To help us see that we are all sent out to share the life of the kingdom.



EXTRAS

- To look at the threefold order of ordained Ministry



OPENING ACTIVITY

Packing for holidays, a weekend away, a day out, or even a school bag can be difficult. It is tempting to be weighed down by taking too much but there again, you don't want to leave anything out! If you were packing for a week's holiday but were only allowed to take five items from the following list what would you choose? Why? Either write the names of different objects on cards or bring the objects themselves.

You will need: objects such as toothbrush, soap, CD Player, pen and paper, hair brush, hair gel, sunglasses, novel, camera, gameboy, mirror, travel games, mobile phone, school books, your favourite magazine, hairdryer, etc.



INTO THE GOSPEL

Use the 'Around the World in a Balloon' Drama (from the Appendix). Use this to begin discussion about the instructions given by Jesus to the Apostles. They were told not to hinder themselves but to travel light. The one important thing that they had to carry was the good news of Jesus and the Kingdom of God.

Read Luke 9: 1-6

What's the difference between a disciple and an apostle? A disciple follows and an Apostle is sent out. Jesus gave instructions to the apostles about what they should take and what they should do on their first missionary journey. He didn't want them to be weighed down with unnecessary items. He wanted them to travel light. However, the most important thing that they carried with them was the message of the Kingdom of God. This is the moment when disciples became apostles. Disciples *follow* their master or teacher, apostles are people who are '*sent out*.'



DISCUSS

In what ways are we sent out? What message do we take with us? Is it difficult to talk about Jesus and our Faith to others? What do you know about evangelists? Find out about the work of the Church Army and other organisations. Can you think of ways in which we can share the good news? How are we sometimes unnecessarily weighed down? What things get in the way of us proclaiming the kingdom?



BE CREATIVE

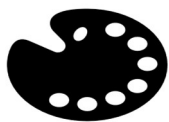
Either:

Make a poster advertising for apostles: what's the mission, what kind of people do they need to be, what qualifications, what's the job description?

Or:

Make an A5 'flyer' advertising and promoting the kingdom of God, remembering the charge Jesus gave them.

You will need: paper and pens



BE CRAFTY

Either:

Provide various objects (or use the object cards) and ask the young people to decide what they would take with them on their journey and what they would leave out. They could place the item in a small travel bag or sandwich box. Now do a similar thing with religious objects. You could do a similar thing by providing an empty Shoe Box and ask them to make a portable sacred space by placing various objects or aids to prayer and Christian living (e.g. a bible, icon, candle, cross, holy water, rosary, prayer cross, etc.) What would they put in? What would they leave out? Get them to decorate the box.

You will need: various objects for a journey, or object cards, a bag or box

Or:

Make What Would Jesus Do? bracelets. These are simply friendship bracelets made by intertwining pieces of wool or cotton. Sew or write the letters “W.W.J.D.” on them to remind us that we represent Jesus in all circumstances of life and that we should ask in every situation “What would Jesus Do?” You could do the same thing by making badges, or even printing your own T- Shirts. The latter can be done by using transfers in your computer printer, or by using fabric pens and paints.

You will need: wool, pens or needle and thread, or T-shirts and fabric pens and paints, or computer/printer transfers.



BE DRAMATIC

Either:

Role Play a drama set in Customs on the theme, perhaps, of ‘Anything to Declare?’ The Apostles are stopped and they are asked if they have anything to declare. They are asked various questions. For

Example, ‘Is your journey Business or pleasure?’ ‘Do you have anything to declare?’ How would the Apostles answer? What’s their response?

Or:

Hold a mock fashion show with the young people dressed in the vestments of priest, deacon and bishop, with music and, of course, most importantly, a commentary describing the garments and how they are worn. For example, the deacon’s stole is worn as a reminder of their ministry of service, reminding us of Jesus the Servant who tied a towel around his waist. The bishop’s mitre is a reminder of the tongues of fire that rested on the apostle’s head, and so the bishop’s apostolic ministry, the chasuble reminds us of the seamless garment that Jesus wore, a reminder of the minister’s priestly role, and so on.



EXTRAS

Ordained Ministry

You may like to use this as an opportunity to talk about the ordained ministry (Bishop, Priest and Deacon) and what we mean by ‘Vocation’ and the ministry of the Church. What’s the difference between each of the three ordained ministries? What’s distinctive? What do their vestments say about the role they have? (See the *Be Dramatic* suggestions above). A bishop shares, in a special way, in the Apostolic ministry. They are the successors of the Apostles. They are modern day apostles! A bishop is ‘a chief shepherd in the Church’ (*Church in Wales Catechism*, 22) and the crozier (bishop’s staff) reminds us of this. His mitre reminds us of the flame of fire that rested on the heads of the Apostles at Pentecost.

Get the young people to design a mitre. Invite them to interview their parish priest and/or make a display: the day in the life of a priest, or the day in the life of a bishop. Is a priest’s role just about doing things? Does a priest stop being a priest even when he’s not ‘doing’ things?

SESSION 10: PEOPLE TO SEE

LUKE 10:25; – 19: ff



INTO THE GOSPEL

Using the gospel reference for this section, read one or two examples of the kinds of things Jesus taught. How does that affect us as individuals and as the church in this place? How were particular people that Jesus met along the way changed or transformed? Did people always get what they wanted? Were they ever surprised by Jesus? Why do you think some people were antagonistic towards Jesus? Are people antagonistic towards him today? What were their reactions? How do people respond to Jesus today?



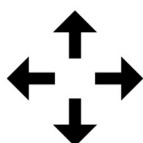
AIMS

- To look at the ways in which Jesus taught people about the Kingdom of God and how he demonstrated God's love in his relationships with different people, through stories and healing, word and touch.
- To help us see how we are called to continue his healing work

EXTRAS

- To look at the Ministry of Healing

This is a large chunk of Scripture and contains lots of Jesus' teaching as he makes his way to Jerusalem. However, it's obviously too large for one section but we'll use it to show the different people Jesus met on the way. A brief list is given at the end of this Session



OPENING ACTIVITY

We meet loads of different kinds of people every day. On a flip chart write the different kinds of people the group have met today – perhaps do it on a timescale. If the group is large divide them into smaller groups. What people? What were the circumstances? Was the experience good or bad? How were you affected by the encounter? How do you think other people were affected by your meeting with them today? Were there any people you avoided? Why?



DISCUSS

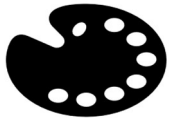
Jesus helped those who were neglected or ignored, he loved the unloveable, and touched the untouchable. Are there people you avoid? Do some people make you feel uncomfortable? Do they challenge you? What about the issue of homelessness? What organisations help people who are homeless? What other people in need are there? How are they helped? How does the church support them? What does your local church do in your community to help those who are in need? What people in your area are touched by the life of the Church? The sick, young families, elderly people, etc. Do you have a parish hall that is used by the community? What do you think you could do as young Christians?



BE CREATIVE

Give each young person a different character from those who met Jesus along the way. Ask them to think about how that person felt and how they would give their 'testimony.' Get them to make up a small presentation by reading their 'testimony' in turn. For instance, "My name is N. I met Jesus when... What he did for me was... I felt...". Perhaps record it on an audio or video Cassette, or by using an MP3 Player or

Mini Disc, if you have them. If there is a young person who likes 'mixing' music they could record the pieces over a track of music. Alternatively, use a simple Interview technique.



BE CRAFTY

Have a large sheet of paper with a winding road from top to bottom. Along this road, place visual images to illustrate the different kind of people Jesus met along the way. These could be drawn, painted or cut out of magazines.

You will need: large sheet of paper, magazines, pens, glue



BE DRAMATIC

Play a game of Charades by giving the young people characters and situations from the journeys of Jesus, or some of his parables, to mime, briefly discussing each one as you go along.



EXTRAS

Healing

You may like to teach the young people about the Ministry of Healing through which *'by the laying on of hands or anointing with oil by a priest, God's grace is given for the healing of body, mind and spirit.'* (62). Show them the Oil of the Sick. Lots of people use oil in daily life – such as aromatherapy and beauty products, and touch is important to people, too – from a handshake to a hug or a reassuring arm around the shoulder. When the priest lays hands on the sick, he is conveying the touch of Jesus who brings us healing.

Think about the importance of touch to people. For example, a handshake, a hug, holding hands, etc. Now think about the different ways Jesus healed people: sometimes from a distance, sometimes by touching them, by using mud (!), by having his clothing touched, with a word. People today are healed in lots of different ways, too. Is healing just about physical healing? Is it necessarily instant? What kind of things do we need healing for?

SESSION 11: THE BIG CITY

LUKE 19:28- 23:26



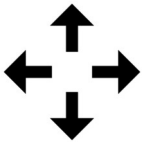
AIMS

- To begin to explore the final week of Jesus before his death in Jerusalem
- To help us see how important his death and resurrection is to the world and our faith



EXTRAS

- To look at the meaning of the Holy Eucharist



OPENING ACTIVITY

Either:

Can you think of any world changing events? September 11, Berlin Wall, Assassination of various people, Martin Luther King's speech, landing on the moon, end of World War II, and so on. List them on the flipchart. Alternatively, write some important dates on various cards and ask the young people to choose one and guess what world-changing event occurred then.

Or:

Can you think of people whose lives are obviously difficult or challenging? Do you know anyone who has physical difficulties? Are there people who find it difficult to get through the day? How do you think you would feel in their situation? Are you ever amazed by people's resilience and determination? Write a list on a flip chart. Perhaps you can find some stories in the newspapers or news websites.



INTO THE GOSPEL

Read the *The Big City* Drama from the Resource Sheet. The events of that week are the most important to our Faith because Jesus died and rose again. However, the events are not just history. They affect us today. In baptism, we share in Christ's death and resurrection. We die with him in order to rise with him. And in the Eucharist, we recall the saving acts of Jesus that occurred during that week.

Read Luke 19: 28 - 38



DISCUSS

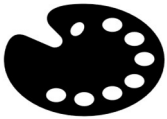
The City of Jerusalem is important to many different religions. What do you know about them? Why was it significant that Jesus died and rose again in Jerusalem? How has that week in Jerusalem changed the world? How has it changed our world? Do you know what happened during that week? How did people's reactions to Jesus change throughout the week? Can you pin point the most important events? For example, Jesus riding into Jerusalem, Institution of the Eucharist



BE CREATIVE

Write a diary of Holy Week in your own words – perhaps from the perspective of a certain character. This can be done by everyone or each person may take a different day. Use the Template in the Resource Sheet for this Session.

You will need: paper or note-book, pens



BE CRAFTY

The Icon Cross from El Salvador depicts the life and faith of Maria Cristina Gomez who was a primary school teacher and an active member of her church. She was killed in 1989. Adopt this idea by preparing some thick card, wood or even paper and draw and paint various images and scenes from Jesus' life, onto the cross, in particular the last week of his life. Either give them one cross each or make one large cross and each young person or group chooses a scene to reproduce.

You will need: card, wood or paper, pens or paints, icon cross

again. In the Holy Eucharist, Christ unites us to his one offering of himself and we thankfully receive the benefits of his sacrifice' (50)

Talk about how you can prepare for coming to the Eucharist. What happens at the Eucharist? Why do we celebrate the Eucharist? For example, it's something Jesus commanded us to do.

Look at the different parts of the Eucharist. For example, the Preparation, the Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, etc. What happens at each of them, what components are there? How do we celebrate them? In two corners of the room, place the words Preparation, Liturgy of Word, Liturgy of Eucharist, Post Communion. Read out the various components of the Eucharist (from the Appendix) and ask them to move to the area they think it belongs to. Also, photocopy and cut the sheet from the Appendix and ask the young people to place them in the correct order.



BE DRAMATIC

Have a Hot Seat. Give members of the group different characters involved in the last week of Jesus' life (for example, Mary, John, Peter, Judas Iscariot, Pontius Pilate, Herod, etc). Get the others to ask them questions.



EXTRAS

The Holy Eucharist

You may want to use this as an opportunity to talk about the importance of the Holy Eucharist (also 'called The Lord's Supper, the Breaking of Bread, and Holy Communion; it is also known as the Liturgy and the Mass' (51). The Holy Eucharist is *'the sacrament commanded by Christ for the continual remembrance of his life, death, and resurrection, until his coming*

SESSION 12: CROSS-ROADS

LUKE 23:26-56



AIMS

- To get a deeper understanding of Jesus' suffering and death by inviting the young people to create their own Stations of the Cross
- To help us see how we walk the way of the Cross in our own life

There are many ways in which this can be done. The following takes a break from the previous structure of each session and are suggestions only. What you decide to do will depend on your group.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Good Friday, Christians retrace the steps of Jesus along the *Via Dolorosa* in Jerusalem, stopping to reflect on the various events of Jesus' journey. This is also done in churches throughout the world. It is a powerful devotional exercise used not just on Good Friday but also throughout the year but particularly during Lent and Holy Week. You'll find the list of Stations in the Appendix of Resources.

SOME SUGGESTIONS

- Don't be afraid of reducing the number of Stations (e.g. representing only one fall of Jesus or combining a few stations into one)
- Use the idea of Footsteps, by placing paper footprints around the path you will take or using foot print templates on which the young people write prayers and leave as they make each Station stop.
- People who helped Jesus – choose the Stations that feature people who helped Jesus: for example, Mary, Simon of Cyrene, the women of Jerusalem, Mary Magdalene, Joseph of Arimathea, Veronica (non biblical). Think and pray about the people who help us through life, particularly difficult times, or who support us in the Christian Way. You could make 'Helping Hands' by drawing around each other's hands on

card or paper and cutting them out. Use them to write prayers for those who help us, to be used at each Station. Leave them at appropriate stations as you make the journey.

- Through the eyes of Mary or other characters – write meditations from the perspective of onlookers or imagine you were there, walking alongside Jesus.
- Make a journey outdoors. Perhaps visit various parts of the community for each station, or simply use the church grounds.
- Light tapers or candles at each stop.
- Make Station signs for each stop like the ones at Railway Stations.

NOT JUST A STORY

Have a selection of different images and pictures of Jesus – modern and traditional. Ask the young people to choose one image that really speaks to them.

Alternatively, depending on the number in the group, place a few images around the room and ask them to stand by a picture that appeals to them. Ask the young people to explain why they chose the picture they did.

Jesus means different things to all of us because of our own faith, personality, circumstances and relationship with him. Perhaps, in a few years' time (or even a few weeks) you may choose a different image.

Jesus isn't simply an historical figure, confined to the past. He is a living reality now! In the Stations of the Cross, we tell the story of Jesus' journey made to Golgotha. But it isn't just an historical narrative. We can relate the Stations to our own lives.

Now, either spread the names or images of the various stations around the room and invite the young people to pick one that appeals to them, a Station that really speaks to them and ask them to prepare something for the station: it could be a prayer, a meditation, or simply an explanation of why they chose that particular station. Give them some time to do this. Then make the journey with the young people leading each Station they have chosen.

You will need: various pictures and images of Jesus (either postcards or photocopies from books or get the USPG resource '*The Christ we Share*' which has a pack of images), pictures or names of the Stations of the Cross, paper and pens.

SESSION 13: ALIVE AND WELL

LUKE 24:1-12 (13-49)



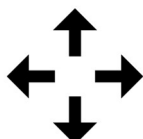
AIMS

- To explore the meaning of Christ's Resurrection from the dead
- To help us see that we are an Easter people!



EXTRAS

- To look at why Sunday is such an important day for Christians
- To see what the Christian Hope is



OPENING ACTIVITY

Play an 'Identities Game.' Give a famous character's name to one young person at a time and the others have to guess who he is she is by asking questions to which they can only respond with 'Yes' or 'No'. Have well known characters such as pop stars, actors, footballers, etc. Could they guess the identity of their character? Sometimes we make mistakes, and can't work out who certain people are. Have you ever seen someone and thought, 'I know you from somewhere!' but couldn't place their face?



INTO THE GOSPEL

There's a case of mistaken identity in the resurrection appearances of Jesus. Two people actually walk along with Jesus but they don't recognise him! It's even more bizarre because they are talking *about* him! It's only at the end of the journey, when they settle down for the night and Jesus breaks bread that they recognise Jesus with them. And even when the women visit the tomb and find it empty they can't quite understand what's happened or where Jesus is. On hearing the news the apostles actually call it nonsense and they refuse to believe.

Read Luke 24: 1-12 or 24:13 -49



DISCUSS

Have there been times when you've failed to see Jesus in a particular situation? Perhaps you thought that Jesus had deserted you or others? Or that he didn't care enough to stick around! This is the case particularly during sad or tragic times, but it can also be the case when we are really enjoying ourselves and having a good time or being really busy with things! We can forget to see Jesus there too! Sometimes, it's not until after an event that we can see that Jesus was with us all the time! Can you think of examples?



BE CREATIVE

Have a selection of different crosses: cross, icon cross, two sticks tied together, different images of crucifixion. Pictures will do if you don't have enough actual crosses. Think about the different kinds of crosses and what they might mean. Place them around the room. Give the young people different situations in life and ask them which cross would speak to them. For example, 'You're feeling worried and anxious,' 'You see a Tragic event in the news,'

'Someone has hurt you in some way,' 'a member of your family has died,' 'You've received some good news that makes you really happy' and so on. The cross is an instrument of torture and execution but for Christians it is the major symbol of our faith because it reminds us, too, of God's love for us, and how he overcame sin and death to bring new life to the world.



BE CRAFTY

Make a place mat to be used at meal times. Give each young person a sheet of A4 paper and felt pens. At the end of the Emmaus journey, they recognised Jesus in the breaking of bread (the Eucharist). Ask them to think about how to express that recognition of Jesus that's appropriate for meal times – a reminder of the Eucharist, table fellowship, Jesus being with us in everything we do. When they've designed and made their mat, laminate it.

You will need: paper, felt pens, laminating pouches and laminator



BE DRAMATIC

Act out the Emmaus journey story (Luke 24: 13-49). Either role-play it or use a dramatic version of the Bible.



EXTRAS

Sunday

You may want to use this as an opportunity to talk about the importance of the Holy Eucharist (also 'called The Lord's Supper, the Breaking of Bread, and Holy Communion; it is also known as the Liturgy and the Mass' (51). The Holy Eucharist is *'the sacrament*

commanded by Christ for the continual remembrance of his life, death, and resurrection, until his coming again. In the Holy Eucharist, Christ unites us to his one offering of himself and we thankfully receive the benefits of his sacrifice' (50)

Talk about how you can prepare for coming to the Eucharist. What happens at the Eucharist? Why do we celebrate the Eucharist? For example, it's something Jesus commanded us to do.

Look at the different parts of the Eucharist. For example, the Preparation, the Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, etc. What happens at each of them, what components are there? How do we celebrate them? In two corners of the room, place the words Preparation, Liturgy of Word, Liturgy of Eucharist, Post Communion. Read out the various components of the Eucharist (from the Appendix) and ask them to move to the area they think it belongs to. Also, photocopy and cut the sheet from the Appendix and ask the young people to place them in the correct order.

Hope

Pope St John Paul II once addressed a large group of young people in Milan. 'You are made to live with God for ever,' he said. How does that make the young people feel? Have a selection of newspapers ready. Ask the young people to look for different stories, pictures and headlines that convey the meaning of 'death' and 'life'. The Catechism says that *'the Christian hope is to live in Christ in newness and fullness of life.'* What kind of things do the young people hope for? Make a list. What kind of things do Christians hope for? Is there a difference between hoping 'for' something and hoping 'in' something? What does the group think about heaven and hell? Have a flipchart with two headings, heaven and hell, and from suggestions from the young people write down words to describe them.

SESSION 14: HIGH PLACES

LUKE 24:50-53



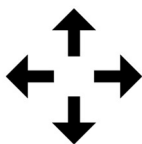
AIMS

- To explore the Ascension of Jesus into heaven
- To see the Ascension as Jesus' promise to be with us always



EXTRAS

- To look at what it means to worship



OPENING ACTIVITY

Can you think of the highest place you've ever been? Write their answers on a flipchart. How did it make you feel? Were you exhilarated? Scared? Nervous? Awe struck? What was the view like? What could you see? Being high up does give you a different perspective on the world. It allows you to see things differently. How many of you have been in an aeroplane and looked at the world beneath? Also, mountains and hills tend to be quieter places because not many people will make the effort to climb them so it gives you space and freedom to focus on certain things without distractions.



INTO THE GOSPEL

Jesus was often taking the apostles to mountains, hills and high places. It was on a mountain that Jesus parted from their sight. The apostles were filled with happiness and joy and returned to the city praising God. Jesus hadn't left them or deserted them. He promised that he would send them the Holy Spirit to strengthen them. Jesus may have parted from their sight but he was going to be with them at all times and forever.

Read: Luke 24: 50 -53



DISCUSS

Do you sometimes find it difficult not being able to 'see' Jesus? In what ways do we see Jesus today? How are you most aware of his presence? At the Eucharist, in a church building, in other people, in quiet, in the garden, reading the Scriptures? Have there been times when you've really felt Jesus near you? What have been your most memorable and happy times with Jesus? Have you been really happy when worshipping God? It may have been in the parish or at a youth event, when alone or with others, with a small group or a crowd of people. Are there times when you really don't want to go to church? Have there been occasions when you've really looked forward to going to church? What helps you to worship and praise God? Is it being with other young people? Does it depend on the music?

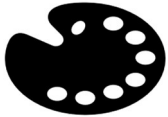


BE CREATIVE

Give the young people some slips of paper and write various sentences that say what makes them happy or joyful. For example, 'I am happy because...' or '... makes me happy,' 'Happiness is ...' or '... makes my

heart rejoice,' etc. Jesus' ascension made the apostles extremely joyful and we read that they spent all their time in the temple praising God. Then group the slips together and get them to organise them to make a rap, song or poem of joy and praise. See if you can make some kind of rhythm from the words.

You will need: strips of paper and pens.



BE CRAFTY

There is an odd traditional practice when people tie a knot in a handkerchief to remind them of something! It was an aid to those with bad memories! Give the young people a handkerchief or just simply squares of material. Get them to decorate the handkerchief using fabric pens with the words: 'I am with you always'. Then tie the knot in the handkerchief as a reminder that Jesus is always with us. Another option (if you know how) is to 'tie die' the handkerchiefs using the appropriate ink available from art and craft shops. Then write the words on the handkerchief when they have dried.

You will need: some white cloth handkerchiefs or squares of white material, fabric pens, tie die paints (optional)



BE DRAMATIC

Use the Drama *High Places* (from the Resource Sheet for this Session)



EXTRAS

The Sacraments

The Catechism says that '*worship is my response to God's love: first, by joining with others in the Church's corporate offering of prayer, celebration of the Sacraments and reading his holy Word; secondly, by acknowledging him as the Lord of my life, and by doing my work for his honour and glory.*'

The Sacraments are '*the use of material things as signs and pledges of God's grace, and as a means by which we receive his gifts.*' Through Baptism, the Holy Eucharist and the other five sacramental rites, we receive the inward and spiritual grace of God through ordinary, everyday things. What ordinary material things does God use in the sacraments?

Provide the material and symbolic items, things such as bread, wine, oil, water, oil, ring, etc. Talk about their use in everyday situations and how the meaning helps us see the meaning of the Sacraments. For instance, water as washing, cleansing, reviving, necessary for life; bread for nourishment, food, sustenance, and so on. Get the young people to handle the items as you discuss and talk about them.

SESSION 15: WIND AND FLAME

ACTS 2:1-4



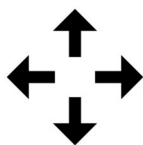
AIMS

- To see that in Confirmation we receive the Holy Spirit in a new and exciting way, like the Apostles on Pentecost



EXTRAS

- To answer any questions the young people have about the Confirmation and to talk about how they are feeling
- To make any final arrangements



PENTECOST

The Gospel of Luke ends with the Ascension. However, Luke's second instalment, the Acts of the Apostles, picks up the Ascension and proceeds to the Day of Pentecost. This is an ideal opportunity to explore Confirmation.

In Confirmation we receive the Holy Spirit in a new and exciting way. He strengthens us to follow Jesus.

This session is more flexible with the others and there are a number of ways in which you can organise it:

Discuss how everybody is feeling about Confirmation. Stress that things haven't come to an end - but are only just beginning in a new way. We've come a long way together on our journey towards Confirmation. But our whole life is like a journey - a journey with Jesus.

Give a step-by-step explanation of what happens during the Confirmation Liturgy, dealing with such

things as Renewing of baptismal promises, Laying on of hands, Anointing, and Communion. They have dealt with these things in the course but now is an ideal time to remind them of certain things.

Answer any questions or queries the young people may have. Maybe have a post box where people could post their questions and queries about the Confirmation service or other aspects of Christian Faith and Living.

Have a rehearsal, and practice receiving Communion with bread and wine.

Involve the young people in planning the Confirmation Liturgy (see the Confirmation Liturgy section on the web site tool bar)

Have a session that involves Praying for each other.

Have a First Confession Liturgy or a Liturgy of Anticipation (see 'Celebrations')

Have a party - or at least do something different like having some food and drink available.



DISCUSS

Look at the different symbols of the Holy Spirit. Which symbols speak most powerfully to the young people and why? What kind of things do the symbols and imagery tell us about the Holy Spirit?

For example:

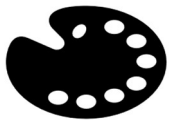
- Dove – peaceful, gentle, calm, beautiful
- Wind – powerful, moving, energetic
- Breath – live giving, creative
- Fire – invigorating, burning, powerful, destructive
- Water – refreshing, flowing, reviving, life giving

Think about other images, such as the Celtic Wild Goose – flapping around, making a mess, challenging, etc. Someone once said, 'The Holy Spirit comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable.' What does this mean? What does it mean for the Church?



BE CREATIVE

Using the symbolism associated with the Holy Spirit, ask the young people to write a prayer for themselves, as they prepare for Confirmation. For example, 'May the flame of the Spirit fire me with enthusiasm,' etc.



BE CRAFTY

Bishops, of course, wear mitres. A mitre is a reminder of the flames that hung over the apostles heads at Pentecost. It is a symbol of the Apostolic Ministry that the bishops hold. But, in a sense, we are all mitred people, because we are all Spirit-filled. If you didn't do this in one of the previous sections then why not get the young people to design their own mitre.

You will need: paper or card, pens, sellotape, etc



BE DRAMATIC

Either:

With the young people, why not write a drama, or adapt a Gospel or Scripture Story that tells us about the Holy Spirit and retell it with sound effects? These can either be obtained from a Sound Effects CD, widely available, or from a Synthesiser Keyboard. So for example, sound of running water, flames, wind, flapping of wings, etc. Such stories could be the Baptism of Jesus, Pentecost, Ezekiel 37, etc.

Or:

Use the rap drama—'The Talk of the Town' in the Resource Sheet for this Session



EXTRAS

The Holy Spirit

'The Church teaches that God the Holy Spirit inspires all that is good in mankind...he came in his fullness at Pentecost to be the giver of life in the church. He enables (us) to grow in the likeness of Jesus Christ.' We are 'inspired and strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit' (34). Also look at the section of the Nicene Creed that declares what we believe about the Holy Spirit (8).

RESOURCES

Session 1

A 'news item' type report :

She Said Yes

An ordinary girl's life was changed today when an angel told her that she had been specially chosen by God.

Mary, who lives in Nazareth, was greeted by an angel who had such an amazing message that, at first, she couldn't believe the news.

'I was at home,' said Mary, 'and this angel came into the house. I didn't know what to do but the angel told me not to be afraid. Then he said I was one of the Lord's favourites! I mean, I just didn't know what to say!' It turns out that Mary, who is engaged to Joseph the carpenter, has been chosen to be the mother of the Son of God.

'How on earth could I turn it down?' said Mary. 'I told the angel I was a servant of the Lord and that I would do anything he told me.'

The first person to congratulate Mary was her cousin Elizabeth. 'I am so proud,' she said. 'To think that Mary, the mother of God's Son, should visit my house. Even my unborn child was happy!'

Session 2

Situations

David has been homeless since he was 16. He was never really happy at home and didn't get on with his parents. He has spent some time in hostels and also a time in a Residential Project but was asked to leave on two separate occasions for breaking the rules and using and dealing in illegal drugs on the premises. He is now 23 and resorts to begging. He is dependent on alcohol and some illegal drugs.

Sharon feels trapped. She married her husband three years ago but quite soon after he became abusive and violent towards her. She feels powerless and unable to do anything about her situation. She hasn't been able to tell anyone. She doesn't feel able to leave him.

Lilwen has been working in her present job for 18 years and has seen lots of people promoted and fast tracked. She gets on with her job and does it well. She is a quiet person and doesn't blow her own trumpet. She doesn't really socialise with the colleagues or the senior staff since she has three children and an elderly mother who lives with her and who takes up a great deal of her time. The last few promotions in work have been relative newcomers to the workplace and have been friends of the boss. She feels as if she is being treated unfairly.

Michael is an extremely ambitious politician. He doesn't care how he will get to positions of authority or what casualties he creates along the way. He is now a Member of Parliament and wants to be leader of his party. He is looking for dirt on the other favourites for the position to ruin their chances and has even blackmailed a fellow MP to promote his own self interests.

Mary suffers from severe depression. Her family don't quite understand her condition – they think it's all in her mind. Her depression affects her whole life and she lost her job some years ago for a mistake she made. She finds it very difficult to sleep without medication and even though she is on a course of medication from the GP she still finds life hard. She spends most of her time at home and has no close friends. She feels extremely lonely.

Daniel is a happy go lucky lad. He is quite a bright boy and works well at school. He gets on very well with his parents but is being bullied at school. It started off with him being verbally bullied - but the boy who is bullying him is now threatening him physically. Daniel has been depressed and upset by what's happening, his school work has suffered and he spends lots of time on his own. When he comes home from school he just retreats to his bedroom. He can't talk to anyone about it.

Mary's Song: An Interview with the Mother of Jesus

Our reporter caught up with Mary to find out about her favourite song!

Interviewer: Mary, thanks for joining us. On this programme we've been thinking about favourite tunes. You must have a favourite song!

Mary: Well, my favourite song is actually one I sang myself!

Interviewer: Oh yeh? Tell us about it!

Mary: Well, it was just after I had received some good news that I had been specially chosen to be the mother of Jesus. I ran off to see my cousin Elizabeth. She was Soooo excited! I don't know what came over me! But I just came out with this song that had been going round in my head.

Interviewer: What was it about?

Mary: Well, basically, it was about how wonderful I was feeling that God had done such great things for me. And I knew, I just knew, that every generation down the ages would thank me.

Interviewer: You obviously felt that God was doing some good things for you

Mary: Of course! He does wonderful things for everyone. He does amazing things, he looks after the helpless, those who others think are unimportant, the poor, the hungry, those who are weak or powerless.

Interviewer: I suppose a lot of people were beginning to think that God had forgotten about them.

Mary: Yes, but don't you see? God made a promise and he kept his promise. He's come to help us.

Interviewer: Mary - thanks for speaking to us today. I'm sure that many people, for years to come, will sing that song and think of you and all that God has done for you and the world!

Session 3
Nicene Creed Cards

We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken
through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for
the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection
of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right
hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and
the Son,

Amen.

Session 4

Shining Bright

This item can be read by one person accompanied with actions, or read by several voices. Be creative with this piece and encourage the young people to make the piece come alive by suggesting movements.

There was a land not long ago
when everyday was night
And all the folk who lived there
were waiting for a light.

By day they waited for the sun,
at night a shining moon.
They knew the bearer of the light
would be along quite soon.

They waited and they waited
and they waited . . . no light came.
The leaders of the people, said "It's such a shame."

All: "It's such a shame!"

And the darkness just got darker,
and all hope went away.
The leaders of the people decided they should pray.

They got down on their knees,
and prayed and prayed quite hard
You know that it's quite difficult
to pray when in the dark.

Some fell asleep, some fell away,
some gave up prayer outright
For some of them liked darkness,
for they were out of sight.

The others waited for a while, for the One to come
And some light bearers came their way
but just not the right ones.

"Get your lighters. Three for a pound. Three for a pound your disposable lighters!"

But he just wasn't right for them; in fact he was a fraud
For the lighters that he sold were not from the Lord!

He'd pocket all the profits and leave them in the dark
For the lighters, far from lighting,
wouldn't even give a spark!

And then one day, before their eyes,
a light came on the scene.

A light that they had waited for,
a light 'bout which they'd dreamed.

The light grew up and brightened
and became a blazing flame
He burnt away the darkness
and nothing was the same.

But then there was another day;
the day turned black as night
And everything was dark once more;
something wasn't right.

The light had seemed to dim a bit,
in fact the light went dead
And for a while it looked as if the light
went back to bed.

But just a few days later, the light was bright again
And darkness was defeated
through love and death and pain.

And now the light was shining,
shining bright as bright can be
The new life that the light had brought was for them,
and you, and me!

Simeon's Story

Simeon tells us about his ambition . . .

"It seems like ages ago now! But I just had this ambition to see the Chosen One of God. And God promised me - he said that I wouldn't die until my ambition came true. And there were times when I thought it would never happen. After all, I was getting on a bit! But then one day I had this great feeling that I should go to the temple. And there he was. Just a baby - with his Mother and Father. I took him in my arms and all I could do was praise God, that he had lighted up the world with this child! I must admit, his parents were bit surprised. So I gave them a little blessing, and told them that Jesus would influence many, many people. I did warn his Mum though. I said, "It won't all be happy. There'll be sad times too." Anyway, I can die a happy man now, because God kept his promise to me.

Session 5

Travel Reps

Characters: Tracy and Sonia - two travel reps

Tracy Hiya Sonia, how are you?
Sonia I've had enough!! That family in Room 42
have been playing up again. They've already

blocked the toilet three times and flooded the bathroom and now they've got the nerve to complain about damp.

Tracy Is that the group who ate sardine sandwiches on the coach and stunk the place out for everyone?

Sonia Yes, but don't worry. I'll get my own back. There are games at the pool at 10 tomorrow morning and I'm gonna make sure that little Johnny is first in!

Tracy So, what else has been happening?

Sonia Well, apart from that, and the fact that I have to judge the Fancy Dress Competition tonight, everything is fine!

Tracy There was a nice family here on the second floor, this week. Really lovely.

Sonia They're still here. I just passed them in the corridor.

Tracy No they left yesterday, love.

Sonia No they're back now. Apparently they left yesterday morning, and on the journey home they realized they'd forgotten something. You'll never guess what!

Tracy Their toothbrush?

Sonia No.

Tracy Their suitcase?

Sonia No, that went to Jericho – as usual! No, they left the boy behind. They thought he was with the other members of the family. They rushed back in a panic and there he was in the temple.

Tracy No surprise there!

Sonia No, but the surprise came when the boy looked shocked at his parents. 'Didn't you know I'd be in my Father's house,' he said. Well, the mother didn't know what to say.

Tracy I can imagine how she felt. He'll go a long way, that boy!

Sonia Anyway, Tracy, better get back to work. I've got a complaint from the third floor. Reckon they haven't got a sea view. Well, what do they expect if they come to Jerusalem. It's hardly the Riviera!

Session 6 On the Road!

Two 'Road-workers' are taking a lunch break.

Bob What's in yours?

Stan Marmite.

Bob I've got cheese and pickle

Stan Fancy a top up?

Bob Why not! The boss isn't around!

Stan Earl Grey or Darjeeling?

Bob Haven't you got any English Breakfast?

Stan No, I'm clean out of English Breakfast.

Bob I was in the boss's office the other day. Walked in on him having his lunch. Honey and locust sandwiches he was eating!

Stan Eughh! That's disgusting. I hate honey!

Bob Look out, here he comes. Look busy!

Stan Who does he think he is anyway?

Bob Some people say he's a prophet!

Stan Other's say he's the Messiah himself!

Bob I just think he's mad!

Stan Well he will be mad if we don't get the job finished on time. I can't understand why he wants this road straightened out. I think it's nice like it is.

Bob Apparently he's expecting someone special and he wants everything straight and tidy by the time he comes so that this 'someone special' can have a smooth pathway.

Stan He was lecturing one of the lads the other day that he wants a nice smooth surface – wants all the bumps smoothed out. Says he wants nothing to get in the way.

Stan Guess it must be someone important, then.

Bob That's what he said! He reckons he's not worthy to even tie his shoelaces for him.

Stan He's definitely not right, you know!

Bob I don't think he's very popular, either. I hear he's been upsetting the authorities again.

Stan That's the last thing he wants to do! Especially if he wants to get planning permission.

Bob I don't think he's the kind of person to bow to the authorities. He's got his own agenda.

Stan Anyway, better get back to work. If we upset him he'll only get us to wear camel skin like him and no way am I getting kitted out in that gear!

Session 6 (continued)

An Exclusive Interview with Russel Budgie, the star of John the Baptist

- Interviewer: So, what drew you to the part of John the Baptist?
- Russell: Well, John was such a colourful character, full of life.
- Interviewer: Did you enjoy making the film?
- Russell: Yes, the rest of the cast were brilliant and we had a few laughs too!
- Interviewer: But the film has a serious message too, doesn't it?
- Russell: Yeh, that's right. John came with a mission. He was preparing the way for Jesus. He told people that they should repent of their sins, and make a new start! And that's serious business.
- Interviewer: What was the most difficult part for you in making the film?
- Russell: Erm...I think probably eating the locusts - that was disgusting. But also the scenes when Jesus was being baptised. We re-shot that scene about ten times - by the end of it I was really cold and wet!
- Interviewer: Does it make a difference for you playing the part of a real life character?
- Russell: Oh yes, because you need to get things as right as possible.
- Interviewer: Although you played the lead role in the film, it's funny that John actually says that there was someone greater than him.
- Russell: That's right - he was referring to Jesus.
- Interviewer: So, will there be a sequel?
- Russell: Maybe - but of course I won't be in it. John the Baptist has to give way to another hero - Jesus!

Session 7

Jobs cards

Cut out the following cards and ask the group to arrange the names in order of who they think has the hardest job, beginning with the hardest and ending with the easiest, with an explanation for their choices. It's interesting to split them into two or more groups to see the difference. Ask the young people who they think has the most difficult job in the world. What kinds of challenges would they face? What are they up against? Who is there to help them? Think about politicians, world leaders, doctors, actors, footballers, etc

Kate

Kate is from Birmingham

She is a Computer Programmer for a national Haulage Company.

John

John is from Cardiff.

He works with young homeless people.

Sarah

Sarah is from Leeds

She is a Primary School Headteacher.

Vivienne

Vivienne lives in New Zealand.

She is a Children's Doctor.

Patrick

Patrick is from London.

He is a monk in an contemplative Religious Order

Session 7 (continued)

Dilemmas

Use the Dilemmas or come up with your own to initiate debate about what we would do in certain circumstances. Either give them multiple choices or ask them to come up with their own responses. What factors influenced their decision? Where do they look for guidance and advice?

You've been standing at the bus stop for an hour. It's pouring with rain. When the bus finally arrives there's only room for a few people. You're not in a rush to get anywhere but you are cold and wet. Along with a few others, an old lady who arrived at the bus stop only ten minutes ago is left standing at the bus stop while you wait to get on. Do you:

- (a) Offer the lady your seat on the bus and wait for the next one
- (b) Pretend you haven't seen her and carry on regardless
- (c) Apologise to the lady but explain you've been waiting an hour

You're watching your favourite TV programme with a group of friends. The programme is interrupted with a news flash about a food crisis in Africa. Do you:

- (a) Immediately turn over to find another programme
- (b) Watch the news flash
- (c) Go and get a can of coke from the kitchen

It's lunchtime at school and you see an older boy push past a younger boy in the queue. The boy protests and the older, stronger boy begins to pick on the boy, pushing him around. None of the Supervisors or teachers has seen the incident. Do you:

- (a) Intervene
- (b) Ignore what's happening
- (c) Go and tell a supervisor or teacher

You have just paid for some shopping and realise that the till operator has given you too much change. Do you:

- (a) Go back and return the change
- (b) Walk on and think you've done quite well
- (c) Put the money in a Charity collecting box

You have left it too late to do a school assignment. Do you:

- (a) Bunk off school that morning
- (b) Forge a note from your parents
- (c) Copy someone else's assignment
- (d) Apologise to the teacher in advance that you failed to do the assignment

You are walking down the street and someone drops a Five Pound note. Do you:

- (a) Make sure no one is looking and then pocket it
- (b) Return the note to the person
- (c) Pretend you haven't seen a thing and walk on
- (d) Give the money to Charity

You've discovered that your friend is being two timed by her boyfriend. Do you:

- (a) Have a word with her boyfriend
- (b) Tell your friend
- (c) Think it's best to let things happen in their own time
- (d) Write her an anonymous note

You've discovered that one of your friends has been dabbling with illegal drugs. Do you:

- (a) Ask him for some
- (b) Have a word with him and express your concerns
- (c) Tell his parents
- (d) Ignore the situation – it's none of your business

Your favourite band has released a new album but you can't afford a copy. Do you:

- (a) Go online and see if you can download it
- (b) Wait until you have enough money to buy it
- (c) Hope one of your friends have bought it and make a copy for yourself
- (d) Go for a shoplift in the Virgin Megastore

Session 9

Around the World in a Balloon!

Jones We've got a problem, Sir.
Captain Really, Jones, can't you see I'm busy, man!
Jones But Sir...!
Captain Jones – I have just spotted an extremely rare speckled pink buzzard
Jones But Sir, this is really important!
Captain More important than a pink buzzard?!
Jones I'm afraid so, Sir!
Captain Well, what is it? You haven't eaten the emergency marmite again, have you?
Jones Euughh! No way! Marmite is disgusting.
Captain Thank goodness for that – I'm feeling a bit peckish.
Jones But Sir, we're losing height
Captain Losing height? What have you done with it, man?
Jones We're carrying too much weight, Sir!
Captain You have been eating that marmite, haven't you?
Jones No Sir. We've packed too much! We're being weighed down! We have to lose something. We're all going to die. I'm too young to die. There's so much I haven't done! Oh no, I never proposed to sweet Gwen, the love of my life!
Captain If you don't shut up, Jones, I'll be throwing you out! Now what's the situation?
Jones Well, Sir. We started this mission with too much luggage. I knew we shouldn't have brought the fridge!
Captain Are you saying we have to end this mission. We've come all this way to proclaim the kingdom of God and we've only come as far as the Jungle of Borneo.
Jones Actually that's the Forest of Dean, Sir!
Captain You what?
Jones It seems, Sir, if my calculations are correct – that we've been carrying too much...stuff. Stuff we didn't really need. Stuff that's been weighing us down. All we really needed to give the people was the good news of a kingdom – and we've brought a fridge full of marmite!
Captain Well just as well we did pack everything. Because we've got the emergency parachutes. We're bailing out, Jones. What's the matter? Why are you looking so glum?
Jones Parachute? Oh dear. I thought you said, 'Pack the Parrot's hoop.'

Captain The parrot's hoop?! Are you mad? We don't even have a parrot!

Jones I know, Sir. But we do have a hoop!

(Session 11 - next page)

Session 12

The Fifteen Stations of the Cross

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus accepts the Cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. Jesus meets his mother
5. Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls a second time
8. The women of Jerusalem mourn for Jesus
9. Jesus falls a third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies on the cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb
15. The Resurrection

Session 11

Greeting

Gospel
Acclamation

Lord's
Prayer

Confession

Holy
Gospel

Breaking
of Bread

Gloria

Homily

Lamb of
God

Collect

Creed

Invitation to
Communion

Reading

Prayer of
the Faithful

Communion

Psalm

The Peace

Blessing

Reading

Eucharistic
Prayer

Dismissal

Session 14

High Places

Several people walk on, talking as they go along. When they have 'gone on', three others walk down, dressed as hikers - woolly cap, rucksack, waterproof, hiking boots, stick. One of them is tired looking and stops halfway to take a breath.

Peter What's the matter now?
James I'm tired!
John It's not far now
James I didn't realise that being an apostle was so tiring. All I've done is climb mountains.
Peter You know what you need?
James A doctor?
Peter No. . . a good pair of walking boots.
James I need a new pair of legs. Mine have given out.
John Look he's gone on ahead of us
James Well, you should be used to that by now
Peter Come on . . . or we'll never get there
James Where are we going anyway?
Peter I don't know - don't ask questions. Just follow!
James (gets up reluctantly). Mountains, mountains, always mountains.
(They walk onwards to the front). First there was that mountain - you know, where he took the three of us
Peter Yeah - but it was worth it. Remember the sight?!
Jesus looked amazing.
John And we got to meet Moses and Elijah. Now not many people can say that.
Peter (Peter looks) He's always bringing us up here. He brought us up here that night he was arrested.
James Yeh - that's a night I'd rather not remember.
Peter Don't be silly - Jesus wanted us to remember. "Do this is memory of me," he said. We'll never forget that night.
John He died on a mountain too
James (sorrowful). Yeh that was one mountain I didn't climb. And it was on a mountain, wasn't it, that he gave that long sermon? Do you remember?
Peter Which sermon?
James (thinking). You know . . . the sermon on the...er....the sermon on the the sermon on the...
Peter Mount?
James Yeh. That's right. The sermon on the mount. And what about the time we were stuck on

that mountain side - thousands of people and not a Macdonald's in sight.

Peter Yeh - but he came up with the goods.
John Yeh - that was a packed lunch to remember. (They have now joined the other apostles)
Peter (looks ahead and then urges James) Come on...! Look . . .he's going!
James Where?
Peter Shh....listen. (They stand and gaze). Wait in Jerusalem' he said.
James Thank God for that - I'm fed up of walking.
Peter He says he's gonna send someone. The Holy Spirit.
James Just when we thought things had calmed down.
Peter Calmed down? It's all about to start.
John I think there's a few things he wants us to do.
James (nods in acknowledgement and then looks around at the scenery) It's a wonderful view from up here, isn't it?
Peter (Peter looks around too) Yeh! Sure is
James He's always taking us to high places.
(All Freeze)

Session 15

Paint the town red

Newspaper sellers:

Read all about it!

Wind and flame extravaganza in

Jerusalem suburb

3,000 people baptised.

Read all about it!!!

Read all about it!

Big shake up in Jerusalem

Apostles take Pentecost by Storm!

Read all about it!

Read all about it!

God paints the town red at Pentecost Party

Read all about it!

Rappers:

Read all about it - it's the Talk of the Town

Of the day when God sent the Holy Spirit down.

The followers of Jesus were in a room upstairs

Gathered together - joined - in - prayer!

There was the sound of a wind and mighty flame

That was the sign that the Holy Spirit came!

Jerusalem was full of lots of different folk

It was to all these people that Peter spoke.

He spoke in a way that all could understand

'Cos the message of Jesus is for all from every land.

"You killed Jesus!" Peter said

"But three days later he was raised from the dead!"

So on that day that the Holy Spirit came!

3,000 people took note of Jesus' flame!

So today - like then - it's the talk of the town

It's the day when God sent the Holy Spirit down

With the Holy Spirit with us there's no

need to be scared:

So GO ON OUT - AND PAINT THE TOWN RED!

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