

GENESIS  
EXODUS  
LEVITICUS  
NUMBERS  
DEUTERONOMY  
JOSHUA  
JUDGES  
RUTH 1SAMUEL 2SAMUEL 1KINGS 2KINGS  
1CHRONICLES 2CHRONICLES EZRA NEHEMIAH  
ESTHER JOB PSALMS PROVERBS ECCLESIASTES  
SONG OF SOLOMON ISAIAH JEREMIAH LAMENTATIONS JONAH MICAH  
EZEKIEL DANIEL JOEL AMOS OBADIAH NAHUM  
HOSEA HAGGAI HABAKKUK ZEPHANIAH  
ZECHARIAH  
MALACHI  
MATTHEW  
MARK LUKE  
JOHN ACTS  
ROMANS  
1CORINTHIANS  
2CORINTHIANS  
GALATIANS  
EPHESIANS  
PHILIPPIANS  
COLOSSIANS  
1 THESSALONIANS  
2 THESSALONIANS  
1 TIMOTHY  
2 TIMOTHY  
TITUS  
PHILEMON  
HEBREWS  
JAMES 1 PETER  
2 PETER 1 JOHN  
2 JOHN 3 JOHN  
JUDE  
REVELATION

GOD'S BIG STORY



Welcome to your “God’s Big Story” booklet. Please use this with your family over the next ten weeks as we explore together the amazing storyline of the greatest book ever written.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

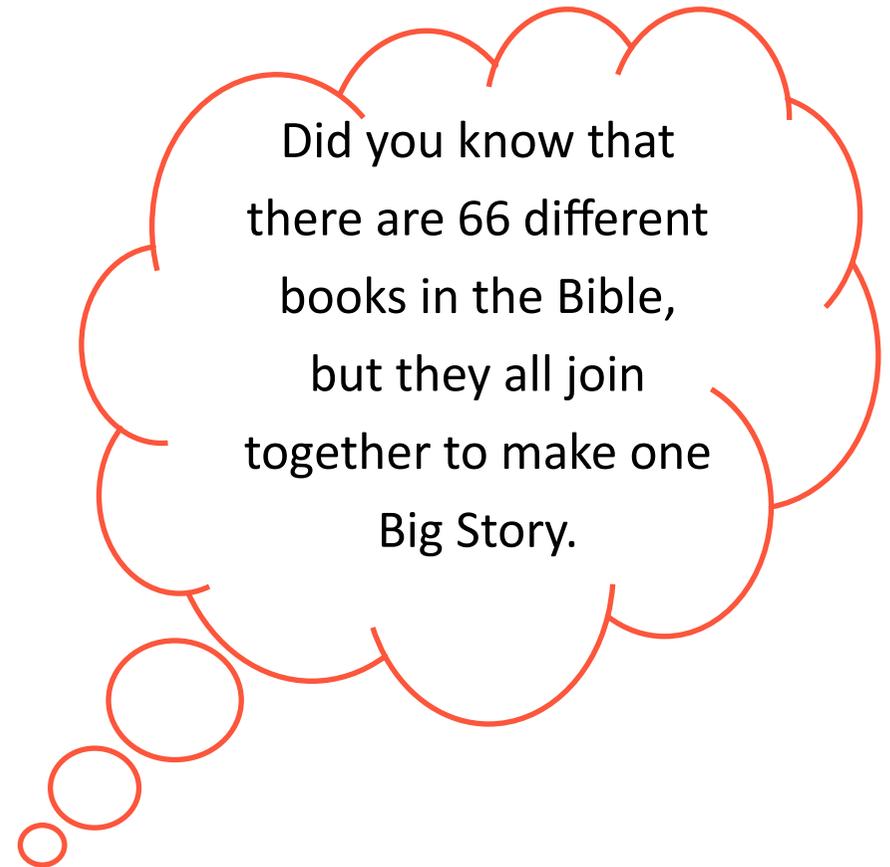
Age: \_\_\_\_\_

What I want to learn from the Bible:

---

---

---



- p4-5 Week 1— Jesus and the Bible
- p6-7 Week 2— Things Go Wrong
- p8-9 Week 3— A Promise Made
- p10-11 Week 4— An Eternal King
- p12-13 Week 5— A Perfect King
- p14-15 Week 6— Bridging the Gap
- p16-17 Week 7— A Promised Shepherd
- p18-19 Week 8— The King Comes
- p20-21 Week 9— The King is Proclaimed
- p22-23 Week 10— The King Returns

## CHALLENGE

Can you find out  
what the first and  
last books in the  
Bible are called?

### *Note for parents and carers*

This booklet has been designed to be used by children approximately 3-6 years old. There is a complementary booklet for children aged 7-10 years old, which you can download from [www.stjohnshartford.org](http://www.stjohnshartford.org) if you feel it would be more suitable for your child.

Whilst your child should be able to enjoy some of this on their own—colouring etc, it has been designed for you to work through with your child(ren). We hope that as a family you can join us for at least the first part of our Sunday morning service, especially to watch the children's talk. You might like to then carry on with the booklet (catching up on the rest of the service yourself at a later time), or save the booklet for a weekly family devotional at a later point. Bible quotes are based on either the NIV or the ICB (International Children's Bible). If you don't have a copy at home, you can find both translations at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). If you have any questions about this material, please email [teresa@stjohnshartford.org](mailto:teresa@stjohnshartford.org)

# Week 1— Jesus and the Bible

Can you draw a picture of yourself reading your Bible?

In Luke chapter 24, Jesus appears to His friends the disciples and tells them that everything written in the Old Testament was part of His story. Jesus helped them to understand what had been written.

Why not find your favourite Bible story and read it now?



## Week 1— Jesus and the Bible continued

The Bible tells us that we should read it as often as possible. Who can help you to read and understand your Bible everyday?

---

Dear Jesus, please help me to understand your Bible and to learn all about you from it. Amen



**WOW!**

Did you know that more than 5 billion Bibles have been printed!

Craft idea—Get two pieces of plain or coloured A4 paper. Cut them each into quarters across the page, making a total of 8 long strips. Pile the strips on top of each other and fold them in half. Staple them together at the fold to make a small book. Write “The Bible” on the front page and then fill the other pages with pictures and words from your favourite Bible stories. Share reading it together as a family.

## Week 2— Things Go Wrong

Find the very first page of your Bible. Read together the story of Creation. Each time God makes something, He was pleased with it and said it was very good.



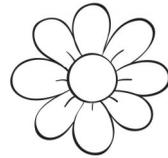
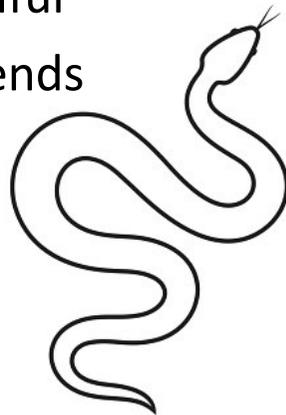
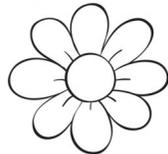
Why not have a look at yourself in a mirror and see how amazingly God made you!

When God made people, that was good too. That means that you are a good creation, made to be like God!

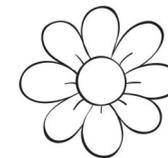
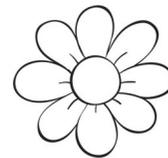
**WOW!**

## Week 2— Things Go Wrong continued

Sadly, things went wrong. A cheeky, sneaky snake came into God's perfect garden and tricked Adam and Eve into being naughty. They did what God had asked them not to do. That made God very sad. Adam and Eve had to leave the beautiful garden and couldn't be friends with God in the same way anymore.



**BUT**...



God had a plan to send someone very special. He would rescue us from our naughtiness and He would help us to be friends with God again. Over the next few weeks, we will find out who that special rescuer is ...

Dear Jesus, please help me to always say sorry when I do or say things that I shouldn't. Amen

Craft idea—draw a beautiful garden or make a collage of a garden by tearing up bits of coloured paper or magazine pages. Cut out a snake and hide him amongst the plants.

## Week 3— A Promise Made

Who is the best person at waiting patiently  
in your family?

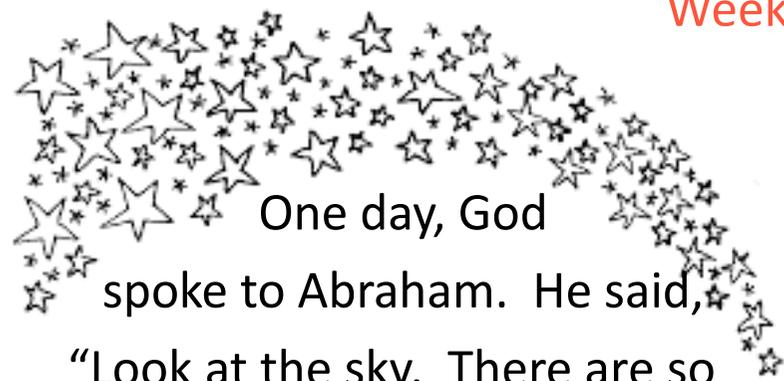
---



Are you waiting  
patiently for  
anything at the  
moment?

This is Abraham. He is very old. He and his wife Sarah don't have any children. They know they are too old to have a baby. Can you draw Sarah next to Abraham?

## Week 3— A Promised Made continued



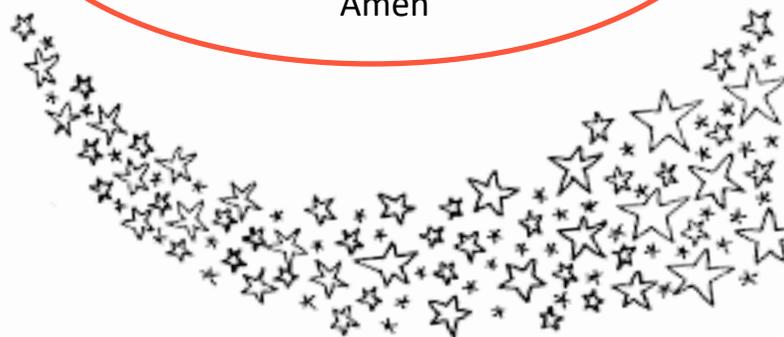
One day, God spoke to Abraham. He said, “Look at the sky. There are so many stars that you cannot count them. And your descendants will be too many to count.” Genesis 15:5

Abraham waits and waits and waits. He has to trust that God will keep His promise.

Eventually, after many years, God gives Abraham and Sarah a baby boy! Abraham learns that God always keeps His promises.

Why not go outside at night and look up at the stars. See how many you can count ...

Dear Jesus, please help me to wait patiently. Thank you that you always keep your promises.  
Amen



Craft idea—get 5 lolly sticks (you can use pieces of card if you don't have any) and glue them together in a star shape. Colour them in or decorate them with stickers and gems. Hang it up where it will remind you to trust God like Abraham did.



Look up Galatians chapter 3 verse 29 and read it together as a family. The ICB translation may help with this (see p3).

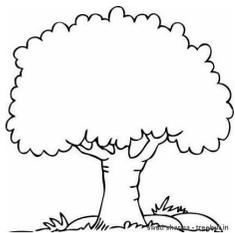
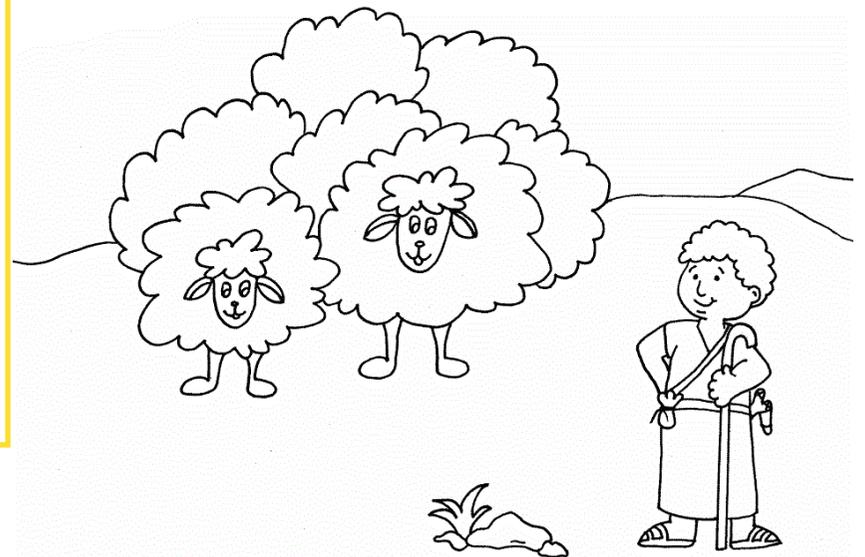
# Week 4— An Eternal King

Do you remember that God promised Abraham lots of children? One of his great, great, great, great (lots of greats!) grandchildren was a man called David. Everyone knew that one of Abraham's descendants would be the special rescuer ... could it be David?

As a young boy, David looked after his father's sheep. He also liked to sing songs to worship God. What things do you like doing that would worship God?

---

---



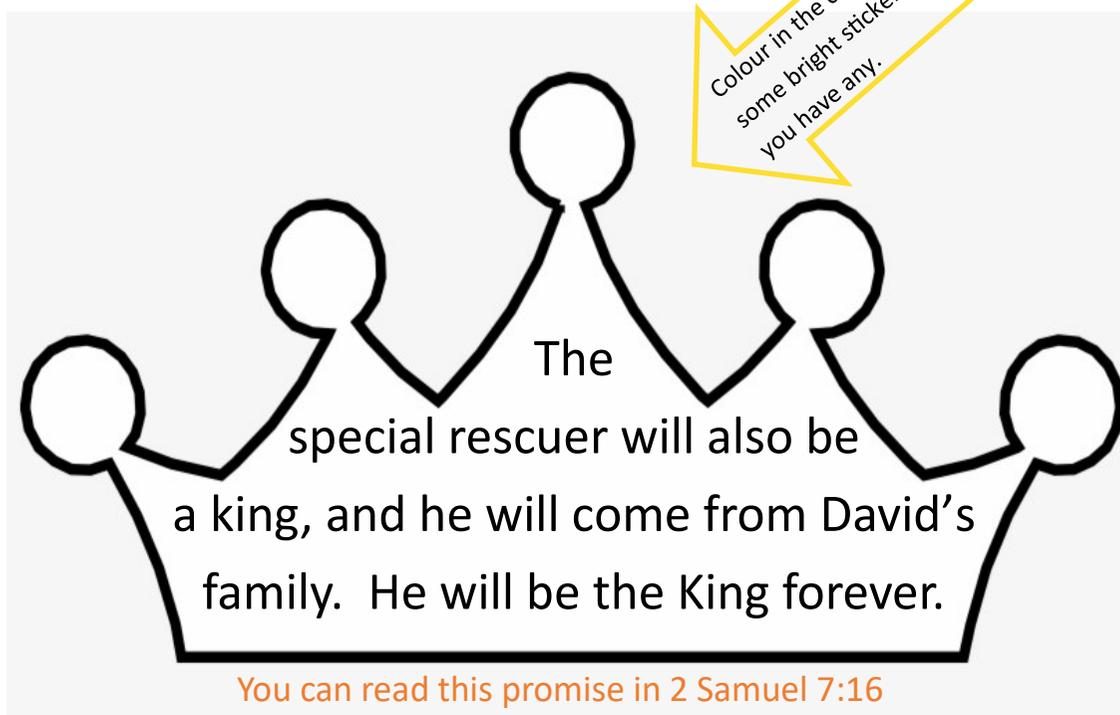
Craft idea—can you make your family tree. You might like to do this by drawing each person or cutting out a photograph of them and adding them in the right place on your family tree.

## Week 4— An Eternal King continued

God chooses David to be His king

# BUT...

David isn't the special rescuer.



## CHALLENGE

Eternal means carrying on forever. God said His promised King will carry on forever. If you carry on counting forever, what number do you get to?

Dear God, thank you that  
our promised rescuer will  
be King forever.  
Amen

# Week 5— A Perfect King

David was a good king. He did lots of wonderful things. He loved God and served Him well. But David wasn't perfect. He did bad things too. David couldn't rule perfectly because he was only a human. And he knows that he can't be the king forever. So he knows that he isn't the perfect King that God has promised to send to rescue us.

What things are you good at doing?

---

---

---

Think  
about

What things are you not so good at doing?

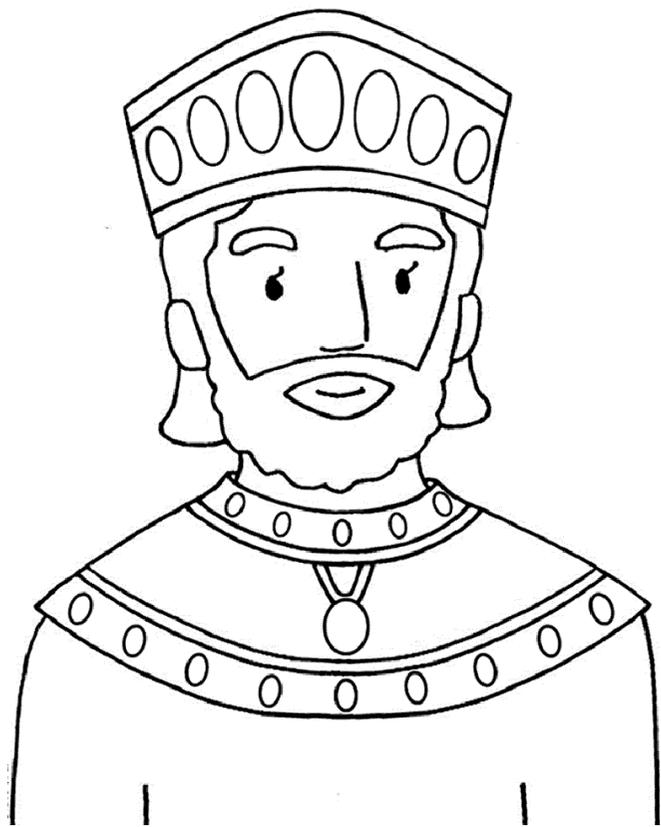
---

---

---

Craft idea—create a simple crown for yourself from paper or card. You can decorate it however you like. Whenever you wear it, remember that you have to try to be the sort of king that God would want you to be.

## Week 5— A Perfect King continued



Dear God, thank you that we don't need to be scared of dying because you have promised we can live forever with you. Amen

David knows that he can't be the promised rescuer, because one day he will die. David isn't scared of dying because He trusts God. He knows that the special rescuer, the perfect King that God has promised, will one day end death forever. You can read this in Psalm 16. Can you trust God like David did?

David wrote 73 psalms, or songs, that praise God. He sang to God when he was happy but also when he was sad, angry, scared and lonely. It is good to always tell God how we feel.

**WOW!**

## Week 6— Bridging the Gap

We've been thinking about how the Bible tells the story of how God will send a special rescuer, a perfect King. This King will help us to be friends with God again.

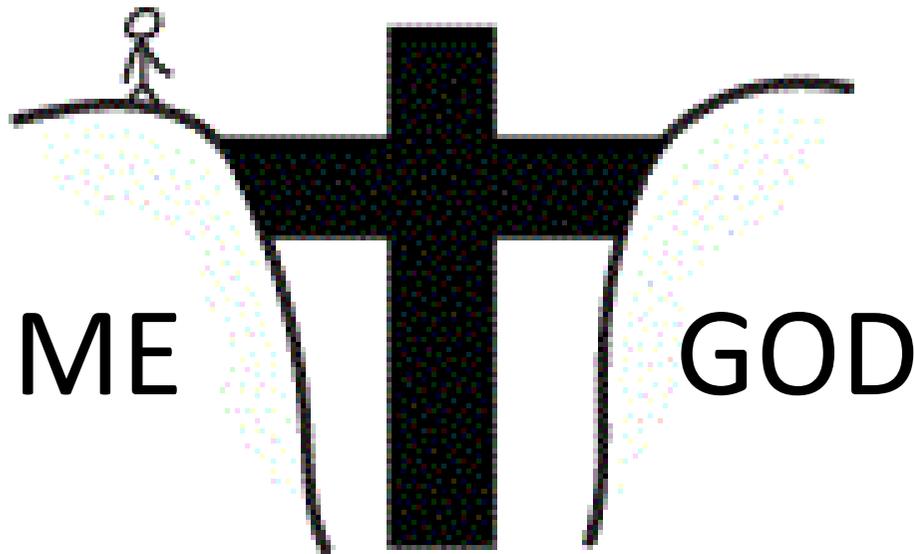
Today we meet a man named Job. Job was a wealthy man who was blessed with many

good things by God. But God allowed all the good things to be taken away. Job was very sad. He kept asking God why bad things had happened to him. But he didn't stop trusting God.



If you could ask God anything at all, what would it be?

## Week 6— Bridging the Gap continued



Job knew that he needed the special rescuer to fill the gap between himself and God. We need the rescuer to bridge the gap between us and God too.  
(Read Job 9:32-35)

Dear God, thank you that  
we can always talk to you.  
Thank you for helping us to  
be friends with you again.  
Amen

1 Timothy 2:5 says, "There is only one God. And there is only one way that people can reach God. That way is through Jesus Christ."

## CHALLENGE

Can you build your own bridge. You might like to do this with lego, or with objects such as books and tin cans. If you have marshmallows and spaghetti, you can have fun making amazing bridge structures.

# Week 7— A Promised Shepherd

We've learnt that God's people were waiting for someone special. He will be

A Special Rescuer

perfect

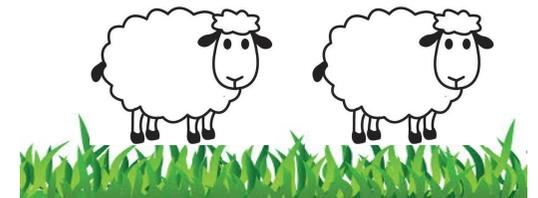
King

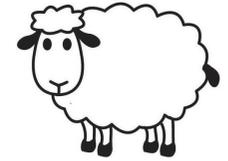
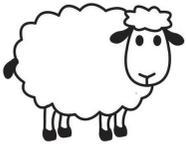
Live Forever

A bridge between us and God

In today's Bible verse, Ezekiel 34:23, we find out that the person God is promising to send will also be

Our Shepherd





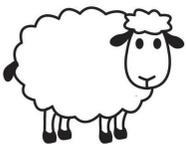
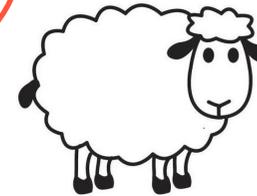
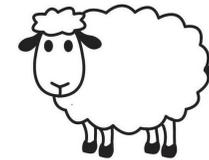
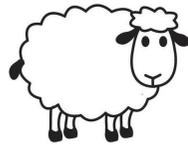
## Week 7— A Promised Shepherd continued

God uses Ezekiel to tell His people that the Special Rescuer will be like a shepherd. A shepherd looks after his sheep. If we believe in God, we can be a sheep in His flock.

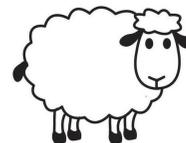
Read together what Jesus said about Himself in John 10:14

What things does a sheep need from his shepherd?

Craft idea: there are lots of different ways to make sheep ... You can stick cotton wool onto a toilet roll and add googly eyes and pipe cleaner legs. Or make a sheep by sticking mini marshmallows to a digestive biscuit using icing. You can add licquorice legs and face too .



# CHALLENGE



Can you be a good shepherd? Can you colour in and count all the sheep hiding on these two pages?

Dear God, thank you that you promise to take care of us as well as a shepherd looks after his sheep.

Amen

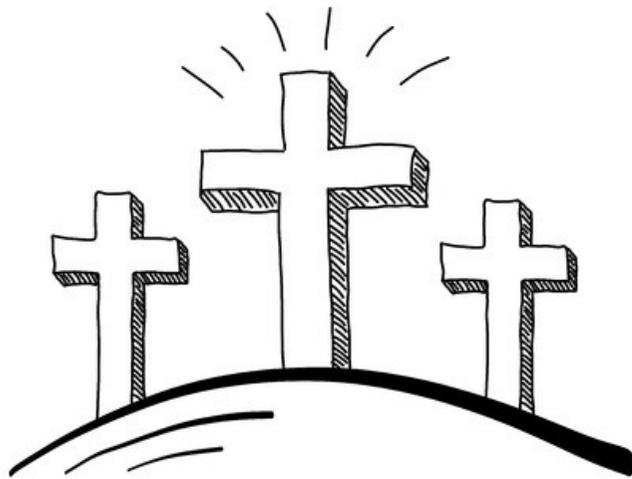


## Week 8— The King Comes

Jesus has told His friends and followers that He is the Good Shepherd. He has told them that He is the special rescuer that God had sent.

**BUT**

Now Jesus is dying on the cross. The soldiers are joking that He can't be the real King. Will anyone realise that Jesus is the Promised King?



The soldiers made Jesus wear a crown made of thorns. How do you think Jesus felt?

## Week 8— The King Comes continued

There were two other people on crosses next to Jesus. One of them was angry with Jesus. But the other man knew that they had been naughty and deserved to be punished. He also knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong. Jesus was perfect. The man asked Jesus to remember him in His kingdom. He understood that Jesus was the Promised King. Jesus told the man that he could join Him in heaven. (Luke 23)

Dear Jesus, I am sorry for all the bad things that I have done. Thank you that you died on the cross to rescue us and to help us to be friends with God again. Amen

When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment for all the bad things that we have done. This made a bridge over the gap between us and God, so that we can be friends with God again.

**WOW!**



Craft idea: Make a cross shape with masking tape on a sheet of card. Paint the card in bright colours in whatever pattern you like. Before the paint is completely dry, carefully remove the masking tape to reveal a white cross. Why not make these as Easter cards to share the good news of Jesus with other people.

# Week 9— The King is Proclaimed

**WOW!**

Jesus is the King! Jesus is the Special Rescuer. Jesus is the one who God promised to send from Abraham and David's family. Jesus died on the cross, but He came back to life. So He is the Eternal King too!

Proclaim means to tell, or shout or announce something important to those around you.



**BUT...**

how will everyone find out this amazing news???

## Week 9 — The King is Proclaimed continued

Lots of people saw what happened to Jesus. They saw Him die and they saw Him alive again. Lots of people heard about the amazing truth that He was God's promised rescuer. But not everyone knew about Jesus. So Jesus asked His friends to tell everyone in the whole world about Him. You can read this in Matthew 28:19-20.



This is Peter. He was Jesus' friend. Sometimes he found it hard to tell people that he loved Jesus. But then, with the help of the Holy Spirit, he told thousands of people about Jesus. You can read all about this in Acts chapter 2.

Craft idea: Roll up a piece of paper to make a trumpet so that you can proclaim the good news of Jesus! Or if you would prefer something quieter, why not draw a picture and post it to someone to tell them all about how much Jesus loves them.

List 3 people that you could tell about Jesus:

---

---

---

Dear Jesus, please help me to tell my friends and family about you. Amen

## Week 10— The King Returns

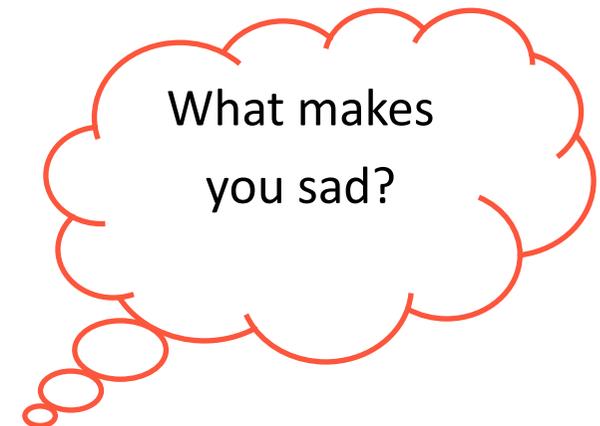
Abraham had to wait a very long time to see how God would keep His promise. God's people had to wait a very long time to see how God would keep His promise to send Jesus as their King. Now we are waiting too ...

**BUT**... what are we waiting for?

Jesus, our King, has promised that He is going to come back. He wants our world to be perfect again, just like it was when He was helping God to make it. Do you remember that everything God made was good? But our world is full of sad things and bad things. Jesus wants to put that right, but we have to wait until He returns.



Draw some smiley faces up here.



## Week 10 — The King Returns continued

The very last book of the Bible, Revelation, tells us how wonderful the new heavens and the new earth will be. We will be able to see Jesus the King sitting on His throne. As a family, read Revelation 21:3-5 together.

Jesus promises that when He returns there will be no more death, sadness, crying or pain.

**WOW!**

Draw Jesus on His throne

Dear Jesus, thank you that you promise we can live with you forever. Please come back soon. Amen

Craft idea: Cut out some stars from coloured paper. Punch a hole in one point of each star. Write or draw one thing on each star that you are looking forward to when Jesus returns. Then string your stars up where you can see them. Each time you see them, they will remind you that God kept His promise to Abraham, so we know we can trust He will keep His promise that Jesus will return.