

Jesus stops a storm

Jesus had 12 close friends. They went with him everywhere. He told them about God and showed them the best way to live. They were called his **disciples**.



You can read this story in **Mark chapter 4 verses 35-41**.

Jesus and his disciples got in a boat. They started to go across the lake. Jesus went to sleep. Then there was a huge storm! The waves were very big. Soon the boat was almost full of water. They were going to sink! The disciples were afraid. But Jesus was still asleep!

The disciples woke Jesus up. They cried, “How can you sleep? We are going to drown!” So Jesus got up. He said to the storm, “Stop!” And the storm stopped! It was quiet and calm. Jesus said to his disciples, “Why are you afraid? Don’t you trust me?”



Jesus’s disciples were amazed! They were glad that the storm had stopped. But they were afraid too. They said to each other, “Jesus is not a normal man! Even the wind and the waves do what he tells them!”

We all feel afraid sometimes. It might seem like there is a storm in our lives. Or maybe it feels like the storm is inside us.

Jesus is always with us. He can help us when we are afraid. He can help us to feel quiet and calm.

Jesus does not always take our problems away. But he always helps us through them. If we trust Jesus, we do not need to be afraid.



Imagine you are one of the disciples in the storm. What do you do? What do you say to Jesus afterwards?|

What does this story tell you about Jesus?

Is there a storm in your life or your heart today? How does it help to know Jesus is with you?



Thank Jesus for being with you all the time.

Ask him to help you not to be afraid when life is hard.



Jesus stops a storm



Mark chapter 4 verses 35 - 41



Jesus is always with us.
We do not need to be afraid.

Jesus heals a disabled man

One day Jesus was teaching inside a man's house. Lots of people were in the house. And lots more people were outside. They all wanted to hear what Jesus said about God.



You can read this story in **Luke chapter 5 verses 17-26.**

A disabled man lived near the house where Jesus was. He could not walk. He did not have a wheelchair. So he had to ask people for money to live. The man had four good friends. They knew Jesus could help him.

The man's friends put him on a mat. They carried him to the house. But they could not get to the door. There were too many people!

So the man's friends carried him up to the roof. They made a big hole. They lowered him down through the hole. Now the man was right in front of Jesus!



Jesus stopped teaching. He saw that the man's friends really trusted him. Jesus said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven."

The religious leaders were angry. They knew only God could forgive sins! Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he showed them that he was God. He said to the man, "Get up and walk." And the man got up! He ran home laughing and thanking God.

The disabled man's friends carried him to Jesus. They trusted Jesus to help him.

We can carry our friends to Jesus too. We can do this by praying for them.



Imagine you are with all the people watching this happen.
What is it like to be there? What will you remember?

What does this story tell you about Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus forgave the man's sins?



Thank Jesus that you can trust him to help your friends.
Pray for someone who needs his help today.



Jesus heals a disabled man



Luke chapter 5 verses 17 - 26



We can carry our friends
to Jesus
by praying for them.

The story of the hidden gold

Jesus told lots of stories. These stories help us to understand things about God. This is one of the stories Jesus told.



You can read this story in **Matthew chapter 13 verse 44**.

One day a man was working in a field. His boss owned the field.

The man started digging. He hit something under the ground. The man kept digging. He found a box of gold hidden under the ground!

What would you do if you found a box of gold hidden in a field?

The man left the gold in the ground.
He hid it again. Then he went away.

The man sold his house. He sold all his clothes.
He sold everything he had. Then he bought the field from his boss.
Now the gold was his!



The man knew the box of gold was worth more than everything else he had. He gave up everything so he could have the gold.

Jesus said knowing God is like having that box of gold. Being friends with God is worth more than everything else. It is the best thing we can ever have.



Imagine you are the man in this story. How do you feel?

What does this story tell you about God?

Why is being friends with God worth more than anything else?



Thank God that you can be friends with him.

Ask him to show you what a wonderful thing this is.



The story of the hidden gold



Matthew chapter 13 verse 44



Being friends with God
is the best thing
we can ever have.

Jesus feeds a crowd

Lots of people came to hear Jesus speak. They wanted to see the amazing things he did. And they wanted to hear the wonderful things he said about God.



You can read this story in **John chapter 6 verses 5-13.**

A big crowd were following Jesus. There were 5000 men and lots more women and children!

Jesus said to his disciples, “Where can we buy these people some dinner?” One of the disciples, called Philip, said, “We cannot buy food for everyone! We do not have enough money!”

Another disciple, called Andrew, found a boy who had five loaves of bread and two small fish. So Jesus said, “Tell everyone to sit down.” He thanked God for the bread and fish. Then he started giving bits of bread and fish to the people. But the food did not run out! Everyone had enough to eat!



Then Jesus told his disciples to pick up all the food that was left over. They filled 12 baskets! The crowd were amazed. And so were the disciples!

The boy did not have much to give to Jesus. But he gave what he had. And something wonderful happened! Jesus turned something small into something very big. One boy’s food fed the whole crowd!

Sometimes we think we do not have much to give to Jesus. But he can turn small things into very big things.

We can give Jesus our money, our time and the things we are good at. This means using these things to do what Jesus wants. When we give what we have to Jesus, wonderful things can happen!



Imagine you are the boy. What do you think will happen when you give Jesus your food? How do you feel about what he does next?

What does this story tell you about Jesus?

What do you have that you can give to Jesus?



Thank Jesus that he can make small things into very big things. Ask him to show you what he wants you to do for him this week.



Jesus feeds a crowd



John chapter 6 verses 5-13



I can give what I have to
Jesus.

He does wonderful things
with what I give him.

Jesus heals 2 people

Everyone knew that Jesus could do amazing things. So all sorts of people came to ask him for help.



You can read this story in **Luke chapter 8 verses 40-56.**

One day an important man called **Jairus** came to see Jesus. His daughter was very sick. He asked Jesus to come to his house and make her better. So Jesus went with him. A big crowd followed them to see what would happen.

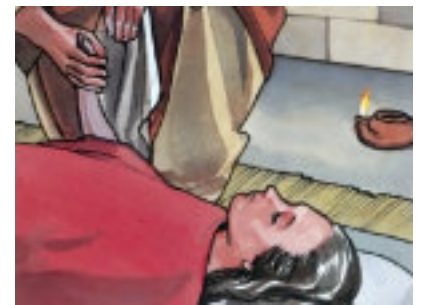
In the crowd was a woman who was very sick. The doctors could not help her. She knew Jesus was special. But she was not important like Jairus. She did not think Jesus would have time for her. So she just touched his clothes as he went past.



And right away she felt better! She was not sick any more!

Jesus felt the power go out of him. He stopped. He said, “Someone touched me. Who was it?” The woman was afraid. But she told him what had happened. Jesus smiled at her. He said, “Daughter, your faith has made you better.”

Then someone came from Jairus’s house. He said Jairus’s daughter had died. But Jesus said, “She will be healed.” When they got to Jairus’s house, everyone was crying. But Jesus went into the girl’s bedroom. He said, “My child, get up.” And she did! Jesus had brought her back to life!



Jesus was very busy. But he always had time to stop and help people. He did not care how important they were. Everyone was important to him.

Did you notice that Jesus called the woman ‘Daughter’, and he called Jairus’s daughter ‘My child’? He loved them both. And he loves us too. We are all important to him. He is never too busy to listen to us and help us.



Imagine you are Jairus. How do you feel watching all these things happen? Now imagine you are the sick woman. What is it like to meet Jesus?

What do these stories tell you about Jesus?

Why do you think the woman was afraid to ask Jesus for help?



Thank Jesus that you are important to him. Ask him to show you how much he loves you.



Jesus heals 2 people



Luke chapter 8 verses 40-56



Jesus loves us very much.
We are all important to him.

The story of the seeds

Jesus told another story. This story was about the people who heard what he said about God.



You can read this story in **Mark chapter 4 verses 2-8 and 15-20.**

A farmer went out to plant some seeds. There were lots of seeds. He threw them onto the ground all over his farm.

Some seeds fell by the road. Birds came and ate them.

Some seeds fell in rocky ground. The plants started to grow. But there was not enough soil. The plants died in the hot sun.

Some seeds fell where there were weeds with thorns. The plants started to grow. But the weeds killed the plants.

Some seeds fell in good soil. The plants grew and grew. They made a very good harvest for the farmer.



Jesus said he was like the farmer. His words about God were the seeds. And the people were like the different sorts of ground where the seeds fell.

Sometimes Satan took Jesus's words away before the person could think about them, like the birds who ate the seed.

Some people believed Jesus. They started to follow him. But they gave up when life got hard, like the plants that died in the sun.

Some people believed Jesus. But other things in life made them forget about Jesus. Then they stopped following him, like the plants that were killed by the weeds.

But some people believed Jesus and followed him. They kept going and did good things for God. They were like the plants that grew and made a harvest for the farmer.

Jesus's teaching about God is like a seed planted in our hearts. We can help that seed grow by following Jesus and getting to know God better.

Following Jesus can be hard sometimes. But he wants us to be like the plants that grew in the good soil. He wants to help us grow strong. Then we can keep following him even when life gets hard. And we can do good things for God.



What sort of ground do you think you are like? What sort of ground do you want to be like?

What does this story tell you about God?

What can help you to keep following Jesus?



Thank Jesus that he wants to help you grow strong.

Ask him to help you to keep following him and do good things for God.



The story of the seeds



Mark chapter 4 verses 2-8
and verses 15-20



Jesus wants to help me
grow strong.
Then I can do good things
for God.

The Lord's prayer

One day, Jesus was teaching the people about God. He talked about how God wants people to live. And he told them how to pray to God.



You can read this story in **Matthew chapter 6 verses 5-15.**

Jesus said some people show off when they pray. They want their prayers to sound good to other people.

And some people think they have to pray the same thing again and again to make God listen to them.

Jesus said God does not want us to show off when we pray. And God always listens to our prayers.

Jesus said God wants to forgive us when we do bad things. But we must forgive other people when they do bad things too.

Then Jesus taught the people this prayer:

“Our Father in heaven,
we pray that your name will always be
kept holy.

We pray that your kingdom will come—
that what you want will be done here on
earth, the same as in heaven.

Give us the food we need for today.

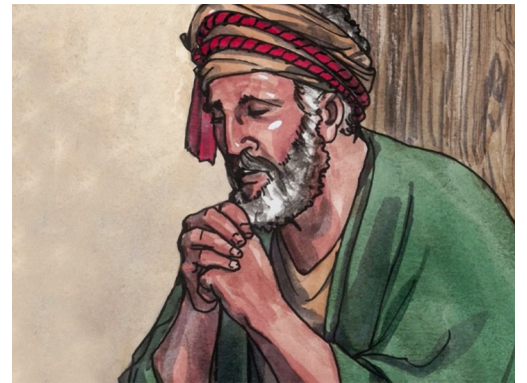
Forgive our sins,

just as we have forgiven those who did wrong to us.

Don't let us be tempted,

but save us from the Evil One.”

(Matthew chapter 6 verses 9-13, ERV)



We call this prayer ‘The Lord's prayer’. It shows us what kinds of things we can say to God when we pray. We can praise and thank him. We can ask him for what we need. We can say sorry for bad things we have done. And we can ask him to help us live his way.

We do not have to use special words when we pray to God. But the Lord's prayer is a good place to start if we do not know what to say. We can change it and talk about our life. We can make it into our own prayer.

God really wants us to talk to him. He loves to listen to our prayers.



Imagine God is sitting with you right now. What do you want to say to him?

What does Jesus's teaching about prayer tell you about God?

Which part of the Lord's prayer do you like best?



Pray the Lord's prayer slowly. Think about what each part of the prayer means to you.

What do you need today? Do you need to say sorry for anything? Do you need to forgive someone?

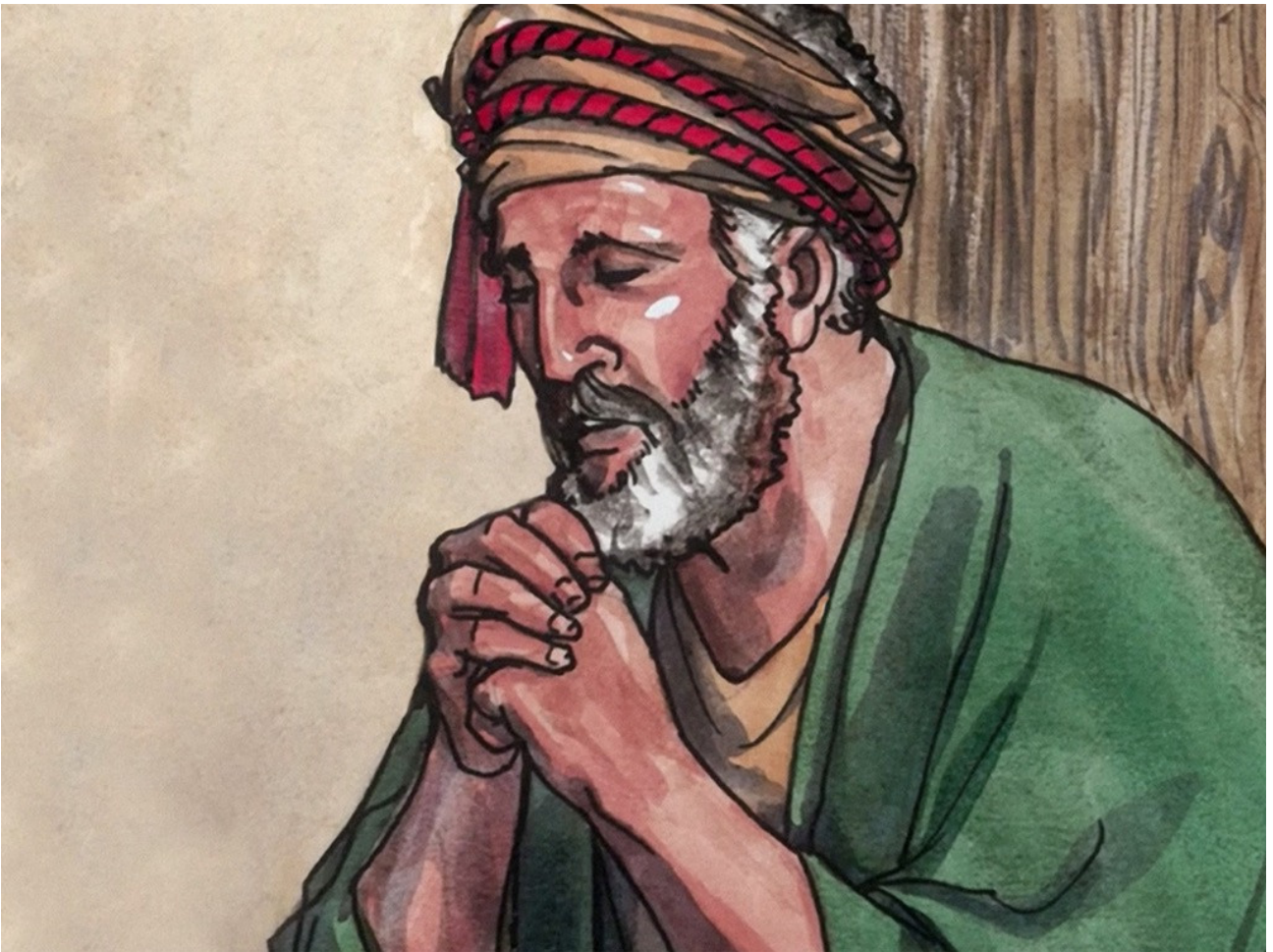
Talk to God about anything that comes into your mind as you think about these things.



The Lord's prayer



Matthew chapter 6 verses 5-15



I can talk to God about anything.
He always listens when I pray.

The story of the lost sheep

Jesus was kind to people who did bad things. He even had dinner with them! This made the religious leaders angry. They thought Jesus should stay away from those people. So Jesus told them this story.



You can read this story in **Luke chapter 15 verses 1-7**.

There was a man who had 100 sheep. Every night he counted his sheep in their pen.

One night there were only 99 sheep in the pen! One was missing! The man started looking for his lost sheep right away. He looked for it all night long.

After a long time the man found his sheep. The man was so happy! He picked up the sheep and carried it home. He told all his friends how happy he was that he had found his lost sheep.

Jesus said that God is like this man. There are lots of people in the world. But God cares about all of us.

Sometimes we get lost or confused in our hearts. We turn away from God and stop living his way. But God still loves us. He keeps being kind to us. When we come back to him he is very happy, just like the man in the story!



Jesus told this story to show the religious leaders they were wrong. They thought Jesus should stay away from people who did bad things. But Jesus said those people were like the lost sheep in the story.

When those people met Jesus, they were surprised and happy. They knew they were not living God's way. They thought Jesus would stay away from them. But Jesus was kind to them. He showed them that God still loved them. God still wanted them to come back to him.



Imagine you are someone who has turned away from God. How do you feel when Jesus is kind to you?

What does this story tell you about God?

How do you think we should treat people who are not living God's way?



Thank God that he loves everyone.

Think of someone you know who does not know God. Ask God to show that person how much he loves them.



The story of the lost sheep



Luke chapter 15 verses 1-7



God loves me even when I do bad things.

He is very happy when I come back and say sorry.

Jesus washes some feet

One day, Jesus had a special dinner with his disciples. Jesus knew he was going to die soon. He had lots of important things to say before he died.



You can read this story in **John chapter 13 verses 3-15**.

Jesus and his disciples finished their dinner. Then Jesus put some water in a bowl, and found a cloth. His disciples were confused. What was Jesus going to do?

The place where Jesus and his disciples lived was hot and dusty. They wore sandals on their feet. The dust made their feet dirty.

Some people had servants to wash their feet. It was a dirty job for the lowest servant. But Jesus and his disciples did not have servants. They washed their own feet!

But now Jesus started to wash his disciples' feet! His disciples were even more confused! Jesus was their teacher. He should not be doing this dirty job! He should not be washing their feet!



When all the feet were clean, Jesus put the cloth and bowl away. He said, "Do you understand why I did this? I am your teacher. But I washed your feet! You want to be like me. So you should wash each other's feet. You should not try to be important. You should act like servants and help each other."

Jesus wants us to love other people like he loved his disciples. We all need help sometimes. And we can all help other people too.

Jesus wants us to treat everyone like they are very important. This is how he treated his disciples. This is what it means to love each other.



Imagine you are one of Jesus's disciples. What do you say when Jesus starts washing your feet?

What does this story tell you about Jesus?

What does it mean to treat everyone like they are very important? Is this hard to do?



Thank Jesus that he showed us how to love each other.
Ask him to help you be like him.



Jesus washes some feet



John chapter 13 verses 3-15



Jesus wants me to love and help other people.
This is how I can be like him.

Group Leader's Notes

These worksheets can be used by individuals or groups. They can be used in any order or as single sessions.

The main handouts are designed for those who can read at a 5-7 year old reading level. The simple handouts with large pictures are for non-readers.

Here are some suggestions for making group sessions interactive:

Jesus calms a storm

Demonstrate the storm either with drums and other percussion instruments or with two people holding a large bedsheet and shaking it more vigorously as the storm develops. (Be aware that some people with additional needs may struggle with noise so consider the needs of your group.)

Jesus heals a disabled man

Urban Saints suggest telling out this story with a lego house. Give it a flat roof with a covered hole that can be easily exposed, and steps leading up to the roof. Act out the story with lego people.

The story of the hidden gold

Before the story, show the group a tray with 10 low value items, eg pencil, hair tie, bookmark etc. Also include a plain envelope containing a banknote. Ask the group members to guess which item is worth the most (without touching). After everyone has guessed, reveal the banknote. The true value of the envelope was hidden. Lead in to the story.

Jesus feeds a crowd

Bring a small amount of bread and fish (canned tuna or sardines?) to the session. Ask them how many people they think this small amount of people could feed. During the story, when Jesus hands out the food, give a bit to each group member to eat (make sure you check allergies etc first). This will help them experience what it would have been like to be there.

Jesus heals 2 people

Ask each group member to imagine they are one of the characters in this story. (Jairus, the woman, the disciples, the crowd watching.) At each point in the story, ask the relevant characters how they are feeling/what they are thinking. This will help them to feel part of the story and think about the characters' experiences.

The story of the seeds

Bring filled plant pots to illustrate the different types of ground in the story:

- one topped with plastic or something else impermeable, with seeds loose on top.
- one full of rocks and no soil
- one full of weeds
- one with a healthy growing plant (ideally in flower)

The Lord's prayer

On a board, write these sections of the prayer:

- Praise and thank God
- Ask God to do what he wants in the world
- Ask for what we need
- Say sorry for bad things we have done
- Forgive people who have done bad things to us
- Ask him to help us do the right thing

Ask the group for two or three ideas of specific things to go in each section (keep it general rather than personal) and add them to the board. Then pray the Lord's prayer including the group's ideas, to show how it can be changed and added to.

The story of the lost sheep

Before the session, hide a toy sheep (or picture of a sheep) somewhere in the room. During the story, act out the 'counting sheep' part with several more sheep toys/pictures and discover one is missing. Let the group look for the missing sheep, then celebrate when it is found, and finish the story.

Jesus washes some feet

Bring a bowl of water and some towels, and wash each other's feet or hands. Think of this as a sensory activity and adapt it to your group's needs. Consider hygiene and allow people to abstain if they aren't comfortable. Alternatively two leaders could demonstrate washing each other's feet or hands. Afterwards, talk as a group about what this experience was like.

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