

# Engage

7-11s discover the adventure!

Approaching Easter

# Introduction

n:gage

Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**

The n:gage programme provides many adventures, each with enough material to use over five weeks. It's designed to help 7-11s to engage with values and characteristics which will enhance their lives and to encourage them with examples of Bible characters who have displayed these qualities.

## This adventure focuses on:

Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**

As this adventure focuses on the experiences of Jesus as He began His journey to the cross, the aim is to help the children to explore what it means to live as a follower of Jesus and to help them appreciate the significance of the GB motto – **Seek, Serve and Follow Christ**.

## Week 01:

The resource provides a full programme with a mix of games, activities, discussion and Christian teaching for Week 01. There will be four activities:

**Plug in** – which will introduce the value/characteristic being studied

**Download** – suggesting a film clip which will engage the children with the theme

**Power up** – where the group begin to engage practically with the adventure

**Get connected** – where the Bible character, central to the adventure, is introduced.

## Weeks 02 to 04:

Following the introduction, Weeks 02-04 consist of a pick and mix menu of possible activities to **Activate** the children to engage with the adventure further. These include lots of games, discussion starters, craft, cooking, fun and challenges. It's up to the leader to select which is most appropriate for their group, their timings, and their environment.

In this adventure each suggestion has been allocated to the week (and therefore question) that it supports.

Weeks 02-04 also feature **Reconnect**. This provides the children with the opportunity to explore the Bible passages and characters for their adventure. Through creative prayer, interactive stories, challenges and games, they'll really get to know the characters and will be able to see how their experiences can help them with their own.

In this adventure the Bible passages have been allocated to certain weeks, based upon what question they support.

## Week 05:

The final week also has a full programme outlined – where all the strands are pulled together. The four activities in this section are:

**Replay** – a final recap on what has been learnt about the Bible character

**Next level** – checking up on the group's understanding of the value/characteristic

**Save** – looking at the impact of what has been learnt

**Upload** – celebrating and sharing the adventure with others.



**Week 01**

**n:gage**

Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**



**Plug in:**

**Making friends**

**You'll need:** A Bible or copy of Luke's gospel.

This activity will introduce the theme of Easter.

**Note to leaders/parents/carers:**

If you're on Zoom or online you could display the Bible passage on your screen.

**Length of activity:** 5-10 minutes.

Talk about the season of Lent by discussing Pancake Day and Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. Lent is the period of time spent preparing for Easter week.

At the start of the first Easter week, Jesus set out on His journey to Jerusalem, approaching the cross on which He would later die.

Talk about the events of Palm Sunday being the first Sunday when we really start to think about the Easter story. Read Luke Ch.19:28-38.

Note that Jesus was not alone. He had His friends, the disciples, with Him. Ask the children – what did it mean to be a friend of Jesus? E.g they followed Him, listened to His teaching, obedience, trust, faith, uncertainty etc.



**Download:**

**You've got a friend in me**

**You'll need:** The DVD of *Toy Story 2* and the ability to show a clip.

This film clip will explore more about friendship.

**Length of activity:** 10 minutes.

Show the children the following clip: *Toy Story 2*: 1:01:55 – 1:05:12.

Ask these questions:

- Why had all the toys decided to return home? To be there for Andy.
- What made Woody turn his back on his friends? Selfishness and wanting fame.
- What words being sung made both Buzz and Woody stop and think? You've got a friend in me.
- At the end, whose friendship did Woody realise was the most important to him? Andy – his owner, who loved him.

Explain that we all have ups and downs in our friendships, just as the toys did. Sometimes we move on and make new friends and lose touch with our old ones.

There's one who is the best friend to have, who has promised to be with us always and who loves us no matter what – Jesus.



### Get connected:

This section enables the group to engage with the Bible character of Jesus, who will be the central focus in this adventure.

#### Note to leaders/parents/carers:

If you're on Zoom or online you could display the Bible passage on your screen. If you're doing this online, the re-enactment section of this activity might have to be improvised!

### Zacchaeus becomes a friend of Jesus

You'll need: A Bible or Bible storybook.

Length of activity: 15 minutes.

Whilst on the road to Jerusalem, Jesus meets Zacchaeus. Read the story of Jesus meeting Zacchaeus from Luke Ch. 19:1-10. Talk about the difference between Zacchaeus BEFORE he met Jesus and then AFTER meeting with Jesus.

Imagine the conversation that Jesus and Zacchaeus had when Jesus first went into his home. What would Jesus have said to him that made him change so dramatically? Why did Zacchaeus return the money he'd taken and more; and why did he decide to give some money to the poor?

In twos, get the children to re-enact how they think the conversation went with one taking the part of Jesus and one the part of Zacchaeus. Swap if you have time.

Emphasise that the difference in Zacchaeus' life was because he was now a friend of Jesus. He had changed his ways and had decided that from now on he would do his best to be the kind of person Jesus wanted him to be.

Mention that he would have been a good member of GB because we see how he had been **SEEK**ing Jesus, he **SERVE**d Jesus and was now **FOLLOW**ing Jesus!

Remind the girls that this is our motto: Seek, Serve and Follow Christ. Christ being one of the names given to Jesus.



### Power up:

This section will help the group to engage practically with the adventure.

#### Note to leaders/parents/carers:

If you're face-to-face in a GB group, make sure you hand out the equipment in a socially-distanced manner. If you're doing this online make sure you let parents know the equipment their children will need in advance of the session or deliver it to their house beforehand.

### Being a friend of Jesus

You'll need: Resource Sheet A (GB motto) and pens/pencils.

Length of activity: 15 minutes.

Explain how our GB motto encourages us to be a friend of Jesus because it helps us to think about being the sort of person Jesus would want us to be.

We **SEEK** Jesus by wanting to find out more about Him.

We **SERVE** Jesus by showing those around us that Jesus loves them and that we love them too.

We **FOLLOW** Jesus by having faith in Him and allowing Him to teach us new things.

Get the children to colour in the letters of the motto using Resource Sheet A (GB motto).



**Power up:**

This section will help the group to engage practically with the adventure.

**Note to leaders/parents/carers:**

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**Easter challenge**

**You'll need:** Copies of Resource Sheet B (Easter Challenge) and pens/pencils.

**Length of activity:** 5 minutes.

Explain how some people give up eating things or doing things they enjoy during the time leading up to Easter – the time we call 'Lent'. This is because it helps them to focus on Jesus and the journey He made leading to the cross.

Introduce the idea of the Easter challenge – see Resource Sheet B (Easter challenge). This will encourage us to focus on being a good friend to Jesus and will remind us how Jesus is our good friend. The children should be asked to colour in the boxes once they've completed the challenge.

During the coming weeks ask, from time to time, how the children are getting on with their challenge. Has anything been difficult? Has anybody done something for the first time? Bear in mind some of the challenges might be hard to do if we're in lockdown.

## Weeks 02 to 04

n:gage

Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**

### Activate:

Pick and mix menu of activities - choose from the following menus to help the children to engage with this adventure.

Each suggestion has been allocated to the week (and therefore question) that it supports.

#### Note to leaders/parents/carers:

We've loosely grouped these Activate activities into weekly themes to make life easier for you. Here is an overview of the weeks. However, you can pick and mix them in any variation that suits your context and group.

**Week 02** – this week the theme is 'How can I pray?' Jesus spent some time with His disciples, teaching them to pray. He also spent time alone with His Father, praying. For some there will be a need to teach the girls how to pray; and others will need to be encouraged to continue the practice of prayer as they journey with Jesus.

**Week 03** – this week our theme is 'How can I read the Bible?' It can be hard for all of us to develop the habit of regular Bible reading but it's important to do so if we're to grow in our Christian faith. Leaders have two challenges this week – firstly to ensure that all girls have access to a Bible/New Testament/Bible storybook, and secondly they may need to consider how they'll encourage the girls to continue reading their Bibles once this adventure has finished. Bible reading helps are available for this age group from Scripture Union and the Bible Society, as well as other organisations.

**Week 04** – this week our theme is 'What does forgiveness mean?' The focus for this week will be the cross and the death of Jesus. Leaders will be aware of the horrific details of the crucifixion but with this age-group we should be drawing the girls' attention to the consequences rather than the details.

### Activate:

#### Note to leaders/parents/carers:

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#### Week 02: A hand for prayer

**You'll need:** Resource Sheet C (A hand for prayer) printed on card/thick paper, scissors, colouring pens or pencils, and self-adhesive gems (optional).

**Length of activity:** 20-30 minutes.

Make finger rings by cutting out the templates and decorating each one differently. Glue or tape to fit each finger.

The rings can then be used as an aid to prayer. See Reconnect – Week 02 – A hand for prayer.



### Activate:

#### Week 02: A Prayer for those who care for me

**You'll need:** A folded blank card with a frame printed or drawn on the front and a suitably sized envelope, some bits and pieces to decorate the card, and colouring pens.

#### Note to leaders/parents/carers:

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**Length of activity:** 15-20 minutes.

Give each member a blank card with a frame on the front. The space in the middle should be big enough for them to write the words: *Thank you God for those who care for me.*

They can then decorate around the frame as they wish with drawings/stickers/stamps etc. They can choose who to send the card to as they write inside.



### Activate:

#### Week 02: Seek, Serve, Follow

**You'll need:**

#### Note to leaders/parents/carers:

If you're meeting face-to-face make sure the children are socially distanced and remain so even when moving. If you're online, they can do the actions on the spot in front of their camera.

**Length of activity:** 5 minutes.

Teach the children the following three actions:

Actions for Seeking – hands held to eyes making 'binoculars' shape

Action for Serving – hands held out, palms facing upward

Action for Following – feet walking on the spot and arms swinging.

Read out following statements and get the children to respond with the appropriate action:

- Lucy has decided that because she enjoys going to Girls' Brigade, she'll give the Sunday kids club at her church a try
- Ben helped his Mum to bake cakes for their elderly neighbours
- Jenny enjoys reading stories about Jesus
- Mark made friends with the new boy at school
- Eri entered a fun run to raise money for assistance dogs
- Ellie was worried about the test she was having at school. She decided to talk to Jesus about it
- Andy put some of his own money in the church collection
- Pat shared her sweets with her big sister who was feeling upset
- Karen wrote a thank you card to Granny without being nagged by her Mum
- There are some things in the Bible that Sue doesn't understand so she remembers to ask her GB leader to explain.

**Activate:****Week 03: A bookmark for your Bible**

**You'll need:** Materials to create a bookmark such as plastic canvas, felt or card, needles, thread or wool, scraps of felt, buttons etc., plus a length of ribbon for the tassel.

**Note to leaders/  
parents/carers:**

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**Length of activity:** 20-30 minutes.

Decorate the bookmark as appropriate either by sewing or gluing or colouring. Add a tassel of ribbon at the bottom. Encourage the children to keep it in their Bible, if they have one.

**Activate:****Week 03: Raise money to support the Bible Society**

**You'll need:** Prepare for this activity by looking at ideas for fundraising on the Bible Society website and getting pictures/videos and information to show the children what they're raising the money for, equipment for their chosen activity.

**Note to leaders/  
parents/carers:**

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**Length of activity:** 10-15 minutes.

One suggestion could be for parents to sponsor the children as they complete the Daily Bible Reading challenge; or members could be sponsored for writing out verses by hand of a section of the Bible e.g. The Easter Story from Luke 23 and 24 (109 verses). This could be done individually or corporately by sharing out the verses.

Once you've decided with the children what to do, you may need to provide them with the means to make a collecting box or a sponsor sheet and set some time aside in future weeks for the fundraising activity to take place.





## Activate:

### Week 03: Books of the Bible

**You'll need:** A Bible for each child, and access to this song <https://www.youtube.com/watch/K9DodTRI3vU> (optional).

#### Note to leaders/ parents/carers:

If you're face-to-face in a GB group, make sure you hand out the equipment in a socially-distanced manner. If you're doing this online make sure you let parents know the equipment their children will need in advance of the session or deliver it to their house beforehand. If you're online and the children don't have Bibles you could show them a picture of the contents page of a Bible and instead of playing the Sword Drill game you could learn the books of the Bible song instead using the above YouTube link.

**Length of activity:** 20 minutes.

The aim of this activity is to familiarise the children with the books in the Bible.

Listen to the song or using a set of Bibles look at the contents page. Count up how many Old Testament books there are (39) and how many New Testament books (27). There are 66 in total. Ask the girls to read out the names of some of the books which they may recognise and say whether they are in the Old or New Testaments.

Play Sword Drill. Sword Drill is designed to be done in a family or group setting. It's a fun way to learn the books of the Bible and where they're located by turning quickly to a specific verse in the Bible.

1. The leader explains the rules.
2. Everyone should have their Bible closed, holding it in one hand and tucked under the opposite arm.
3. The leader holds up their Bible and says, 'Swords ready.'
4. Everyone lifts their closed Bible with the spine in the palm of their hand, to head level or higher.
5. The leader says the book, chapter and verse (for example Genesis Chapter 6, Verse 8) and everyone repeats the book, chapter and verse.
6. The leader says 'Ready' and then shouts 'Go!'
7. Everyone brings their Bibles down and turns to the verse as quickly as possible.
8. As soon as a person finds the verse they stand up. The leader recognises the first person to stand and that person reads the verse out to the others.
9. The person who finds the most verses first wins the round. Choose 10 verses to find that can be easily read by the children.

Please note, it may be wise to choose to play with just verses from Luke's gospel initially, then the New Testament books, followed by just Old Testament books, until the children are confident enough to find verses in the Bible as a whole.



### Activate:

#### Week 04: Stained glass window cross

**You'll need:** A piece of black card or paper, a similar sized piece of tracing or greaseproof paper, felt-tips, pencils, glue, and scissors.

#### Note to leaders/ parents/carers:

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**Length of activity:** 15 minutes.

Using a pencil each child should draw an outline of a cross on a piece of tracing or greaseproof paper, making each arm of the cross about 2-3 cm wide.

They should then draw random shapes inside the cross, but nothing too small.

Next they should go over all the pencil lines with a black felt-tip pen and colour in the random shapes with felt-tips.

Make a border from black card or paper to frame the cross and glue on to the greaseproof paper. Hang up at a window. Explain to the children that the cross is a symbol of God's love for us and reminds us of how He forgives us for what we've said and done, as long as we're sorry.



### Activate:

#### Week 04: Gift of forgiveness

**You'll need:** Resource Sheet D (Gift of forgiveness) photocopied onto card, scissors, glue, felt-tips or crayons, a small gift like a chocolate, and ribbon to fasten.

#### Note to leaders/ parents/carers:

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**Length of activity:** 20 minutes.

The children should cut out the cross-shaped box template. Then they can decorate the outside and fold in the edges to form a box. They should glue all the edges marked, but not the flap for the lid.

They can place a small gift inside for a friend and fasten the box with a pretty bow. Encourage them to give the gift to a friend who they may have upset and explain that they're sorry and ask for their friend's forgiveness.

**Activate:****Week 04: 70 x 7****You'll need:** Resource sheet E (70 x 7).**Note to leaders/  
parents/carers:**

If you're face-to-face in a GB group, make sure you hand out the equipment in a socially-distanced manner. If you're doing this online make sure you let parents know the equipment their children will need in advance of the session or deliver it to their house beforehand.

**Length of activity:** 10 minutes.

The aim of this activity is to reinforce Jesus' teaching that we should forgive those who have wronged us and it doesn't matter how many times – just keep on forgiving.

Use the sheet to record daily exercise for this week and to discover the answer to  $70 \times 7$ . If your context allows, you could do the activities all at one GB meeting – with breaks.

**Activate:****Non-specific week: An Easter posy****You'll need:** An egg-cup, a small piece of dried flower arrangement foam or a lump of modelling clay, a selection of dried or fabric flowers and leaves with stems. You may be able to pick up some cheap egg-cups from a charity shop.**Note to leaders/  
parents/carers:**

If you're face-to-face in a GB group, make sure you hand out the equipment in a socially-distanced manner. If you're doing this online make sure you let parents know the equipment their children will need in advance of the session or deliver it to their house beforehand.

**Length of activity:** 20 minutes.

Get the children to push the foam or clay firmly into the egg-cup and make a pretty arrangement with the flowers and leaves which could be given as a Mothering Sunday or Easter gift.

**Weeks 02 to 04**

n:gage

Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**



### **Reconnect:**

Pick and mix from these Bible bits and prayer activities, which will help you to consider 'Approaching Easter' in different ways and to further engage with the theme and how it can be shared from a Biblical viewpoint.

#### **Note to leaders/parents/carers:**

We've loosely grouped these Reconnect activities into weekly themes to make life easier for you. However, you can pick and mix them in any variation that suits your context and group.



### **Reconnect:**

**Week 02: A hand for prayer**

**You'll need:** The rings made in in the Week 02 Activate session.

**Length of activity:** 15 minutes.

As the children place a ring on each finger, talk through what each ring represents, as follows:

#### **Thumb**

give God a thumbs-up! Praise Him as the King, and worship Him as the creator

#### **Index finger** (or pointing finger)

pray for those who point us in the right direction e.g. teachers, church and GB leaders

#### **Middle finger**

pray for those in authority e.g. police, the government, the Queen

#### **Ring finger**

pray for those we love e.g. our family and friends

#### **Little finger**

pray for ourselves.

A leader should then model this by asking the children to join her, by placing the rings on their fingers, while she prays. The children can then be encouraged to use this way of praying when alone.

#### **Note to leaders/parents/carers:**

This links with the 'A hand for prayer' activity suggested for Week 02 of Activate. If you're face-to-face in a GB group, make sure you hand out the equipment in a socially-distanced manner. If you're doing this online make sure you let parents know the equipment their children will need in advance of the session or deliver it to their house beforehand.



## Reconnect:

### Week 02: The Garden of Gethsemane – a special place to pray

**You'll need:** A Bible, Luke's gospel or Bible story of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, paper, and crayons.

#### Note to leaders/ parents/carers:

If you're face-to-face in a GB group, make sure you hand out the equipment in a socially-distanced manner. If you're doing this online make sure you let parents know the equipment their children will need in advance of the session or deliver it to their house beforehand. If you're delivering this session online you may wish to share your screen with the Bible passage written out.

**Length of activity:** 15 minutes.

This story can be found in Luke Ch.22:39-40 – although Luke doesn't specifically mention the garden of Gethsemane, other Gospels do, and it's accepted that Luke is referring to the same event.

Read the Bible passage and explain that Jesus left the disciples to pray on His own in the garden. He talked very honestly to His father God and told Him how troubled He was. He knew that the time was coming when He would be handed over to the soldiers who wanted to see Him put to death.

When we pray we can tell God anything and we can do that anywhere but sometimes it helps if we can find somewhere quiet and special to us e.g. under our bedcovers, sitting on a swing, in the corner of a room.

Ask the children to think of a special place where they could pray. They may want to share that with the group or draw a picture of it.

Remind the group that they can tell God exactly how they're feeling, just as Jesus did; and they can ask God to comfort them and give them peace.



## Reconnect:

### Week 02: The Lord's Prayer

**You'll need:** This video which explains the Lord's Prayer [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69JT4zsV\\_uY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69JT4zsV_uY) OR read the Lord's prayer from the Bible in Luke Ch.11:2-4, and each line of the Lord's Prayer written on a strip of paper or on your screen.

**Length of activity:** 15 minutes

One of the friends of Jesus, John, asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. He gave them these words of a prayer that we now call The Lord's Prayer.

Arrange the strips of paper in the correct order or show them on your screen and then explain each line:

- God's name is special and we should only use it when we're talking to God or talking about God
- We want what God wants so that God's kingdom on earth will be just like God's kingdom in heaven – perfect!
- We can ask this for ourselves and we can also ask this for those who don't get enough to eat
- Our 'sins' are those things we do which are wrong and spoil our friendship with God and our friendship with others. If we're asking God to forgive us, we need to forgive others too
- We're asking God to help us keep away from anything that would stop us from loving Him and loving others.

Say the prayer together and encourage the group to use this prayer for themselves especially when they don't know what to say.



## Reconnect:

### Week 02: Praying together

**You'll need:** A flipchart or online whiteboard on which you've written 'God is great, God is good, thank you God for...'

**Length of activity:** 5 minutes.

Very often children don't have the words to pray aloud. This will help them to build up confidence.

Begin by sharing thoughts about what we can thank God for. Write some of the children's ideas on a flipchart/online whiteboard. With your group rehearse chanting together 'God is great, God is good, thank you God for...'. Then chant and take turns filling in the blanks. The children could use the shared ideas or add their own different ideas.



## Reconnect:

### Week 02: Palm praise

**You'll need:** A Bible, some large pieces of green paper, a thick felt-tip pen, scissors, and a flipchart or online whiteboard.

**Length of activity:** 10 minutes

Read the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem from Luke Ch. 19:28-40. Find the words shouted out by the crowds as they praised Jesus. Write these words on a large sheet of paper or the online whiteboard.

'Hosanna', 'Glory to God', 'God Bless the King'. You could add other words of praise such as 'Hallelujah' and 'God is great'.

Each child chooses one of the words or phrases and then draws and cuts out a palm leaf from the green paper. They should write their chosen word or phrase on their palm leaf.

The leader should pray while the group stands and waves their palm leaves joyfully and at the end of the prayer everyone shouts out together the word from their own palm leaf.

An example prayer is... Lord, our God, we praise you because you're our King. You love each one of us and as we wave our palm branches we worship you and we give you our love and we SHOUT .....  
Amen.

### Note to leaders/ parents/carers:

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## Reconnect:

### Note to leaders/ parents/carers:

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### Week 03: Daily Bible reading

**You'll need:** Resource Sheet F (Bible bits) photocopied back-to-back, a Bible or copy of Luke's gospel, and a pen/pencil.

**Length of activity:** 20 minutes.

Fold the sheet to make a trifold leaflet showing a week of Bible readings at a time. Explain that all the readings are from the Gospel of Luke, which is in the New Testament section of the Bible.

Show the children how to find Luke using the contents page of a Bible or by turning to the back of the Bible and pointing out where the New Testament starts.

If any of the children don't have access to a Bible of their own, consider providing them with at least a copy of Luke's gospel available in packs of 20 or singly from Eden Bookshop online at a reasonable price.

Explain the challenge. They can tick or draw a smiley face in the empty box as they complete each reading and if they read something that makes them excited, note it down, or draw a picture in the 'Wow' space.

Complete Day 1 of Week 1 together and look at the rest of the sheet, explaining how they will get to know more about Jesus as they read their Bible every day.

Each week ask the girls how they're getting on and encourage them to share anything they don't understand as well as their 'wow' moments.

At the end of the challenge, you may consider buying or recommending Bible reading notes for the children, such as those available from Scripture Union, the Bible Society or by looking at what's available from the Eden Bookshop online.



## Reconnect:

### Note to leaders/ parents/carers:

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## Week 03: The story of Mary Jones

**You'll need:** Find out about the Bible Society and discover how it all started with the story of Mary Jones, a young Welsh girl who saved up and walked many miles in order to have a Bible of her own. The Bible Society website has her story and resources to help you do this. [www.biblesociety.org.uk](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk), and paper, pens and crayons.

**Length of activity:** 20 minutes.

Tell the story of Mary Jones. Discuss what the children found most inspiring about her story.

Get them to draw and colour a picture illustrating the part they found to be most inspiring.

Explain how her story inspired others to start the Bible Society, which is now working in many countries and aims to provide Bibles in every language so that all people everywhere can read the word of God and find out how to be a Christian.



## Reconnect:

### Note to leaders/ parents/carers:

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## Week 03: A guiding light

**You'll need:** Resource Sheet G (A guiding light), colouring pens, shiny collage items, scissors, and glue.

**Length of activity:** 10 minutes.

Get the children to colour in the lamp on Resource Sheet G (A guiding light), and/or decorate it with shiny items. Then should then colour in the letters of the verse from Psalm 119:105: 'Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.'

Explain that the 'word' is the Bible and that when we read the Bible it helps us in many ways – to encourage, comfort, teach, discipline etc. and that it helps us to be the kind of people that Jesus wants us to be.

Do the children recognise the lamp from somewhere? It's part of the GB badge! Our badge reminds us how important it is to read the Bible.





## Reconnect:

### Week 04: Forgiveness

**You'll need:** A Bible or Luke's gospel, Resource Sheet H (GB badge), and access to this film [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTRsi5\\_onIA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTRsi5_onIA).

#### Note to leaders/ parents/carers:

If you're face-to-face in a GB group, make sure you hand out the equipment in a socially-distanced manner. If you're doing this online make sure you let parents know the equipment their children will need in advance of the session or deliver it to their house beforehand.

**Length of activity:** 20 minutes.

Read Luke Ch.23:26 and 32-34a. Note how Jesus prays and asks God to forgive the soldiers. Talk to the children about forgiveness and what it means:

- If we accept Jesus' forgiveness and turn our lives around to live for Him we'll go on to live with God for ever, here on earth and then in heaven
- Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins (bad things we've done). Thinking about that and what He went through on the cross can help us to understand why we should live for Jesus today
- Throughout our lives we'll come across people who will treat us unfairly but if Jesus can forgive those cruel soldiers who went on to kill Him surely we should follow His example and forgive those who are mean to us.

**OR** watch the film.

Using Resource Sheet H (GB badge) identify what's missing from the badge. Without the cross of Jesus there would be no GB! The children should draw in the cross and colour the badge.



## Reconnect:

### Week 04: Forgiveness – a prayer activity

**You'll need:** Two lolly sticks, an elastic band, and a felt-tip pen.

#### Note to leaders/ parents/carers:

If you're face-to-face in a GB group, make sure you hand out the paper/pens in a socially-distanced manner. If you're doing this online make sure you let parents know the equipment their children will need in advance of the session or deliver it to their house beforehand.

**Length of activity:** 5-10 minutes.

Get the children to make their lolly sticks into a cross shape and fasten them together by wrapping an elastic band around the join.

Ask the children to write their own name on the cross as a reminder that Jesus died so that they could be forgiven for those things in their lives which come between them and God. The Bible calls these things sin.

Say a prayer and ask God to forgive us and to help us get close to Him e.g. Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross so that we can have our sins forgiven. Thank You for forgiving my sins. Amen.

Now ask them to turn over their cross and imagine they can see on it the names of all those people who've hurt them, disappointed them, and told lies about them etc.

Say a prayer to ask God to help us to forgive them e.g. Dear God, I'm having a hard time forgiving \_\_\_\_\_ for hurting me. Please give me your love in my heart so I can forgive them as you've forgiven me. Amen.

Lastly, ask them to look at the cross and remember somebody that they've upset or hurt. Pray that God will give them the courage to ask them for forgiveness e.g. Dear God, I'm afraid to ask forgiveness from \_\_\_\_\_. Please give me the courage to do the right thing. Amen.



## **Reconnect:**

### **Week 04: The unforgiving servant**

**You'll need:** A Bible or Bible story book, paper, and pens/pencils.

**Length of activity:** 30 minutes.

#### **Note to leaders/ parents/carers:**

If you're face-to-face in a GB group, make sure you hand out the equipment in a socially-distanced manner. If you're doing this online make sure you let parents know the equipment their children will need in advance of the session or deliver it to their house beforehand.

Read the parable of the unforgiving servant from a story book or from Matthew Ch.18:21-35.

The children can either draw their own comic strip of this story or plan a drama of the story which they can act out as a whole group for parents or the church; or rehearse in small groups and perform for each other – depending on any COVID-19 restrictions in place.



**Week 05**

n:gage

Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**

**Note to leaders/parents/carers:**

In this last week we're going to reflect on the resurrection of Jesus and the new life He gives.



**Replay: Jesus is alive!**

**You'll need:** The Bible Society film *Super Cool Jesus* – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6kmDligfKU> and Resource Sheet F (Bible bits) – for the leader to use.

**Length of activity:** 10 minutes.

Use Week 5 of the Resource Sheet F (Bible Bits) daily Bible readings to recap the events of Easter week so far i.e. up to the crucifixion.

The disciples were left feeling let down by their friend, confused, sad. But God had not deserted His Son Jesus, nor His people.

Watch the video which includes an account of the resurrection.

Jesus is alive! This is good news and it was news that the disciples shared with their friends.

The same news is good today and we should be so happy knowing that death was not the end for Jesus that we're bursting to share it with our friends.

This section gives you the opportunity to re-focus and review what you've learnt about the Bible character of Jesus.

**Note to leaders/parents/carers:**

Colouring sheets are also available on the Bible Society website to accompany this video.



### Next level:

This section gives you the opportunity to re-focus and reflect on the value/characteristic of Approaching Easter.

#### Note to leaders/parents/carers:

If you're face-to-face in a GB group, make sure you hand out the equipment in a socially-distanced manner. If you're doing this online make sure you let parents know the equipment their children will need in advance of the session or deliver it to their house beforehand.

### Share the Easter message – make an Easter card

**You'll need:** A piece of folded card to fit a C5 envelope, an envelope, white wax crayon or white candle, watercolour paints ranging in colours from yellows to oranges and reds (or washable felt-tips), and a black felt-tip.

**Length of activity:** 20 minutes.

Discuss what words the children might write inside or on the front of the card e.g. 'Jesus is alive'; 'Jesus is risen'; 'Praise God, Jesus is alive'.

Get them to lightly draw a cross in pencil on the card so that each arm is about 1 cm wide. They should 'colour in' the cross using a white wax crayon or candle.

Next they should paint stripes across the whole card using the various colours to create a sunrise or abstract effect. It would be particularly effective to allow the colours to overlap. Alternatively colour stripes using washable felt-tips and brush over the edges of the stripes with a paintbrush dipped in water allowing the colours to blend. Leave to dry.

Using black felt-tip they should write their chosen words on the front/inside of the card, and then write a message inside and decide who they will give it to.



### Save:

This section gives you the opportunity to re-focus on the impact that this adventure has had.

#### Note to leaders/parents/carers:

If you're face-to-face in a GB group, make sure you sanitise your hands before hiding the cards. You may also want to watch *For God so loved the world* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axvzjy8LjoA>

### Egg hunt

**You'll need:** Decorated egg-shaped cards on the back of which you've written the words of John Ch.3:16 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' Use as many cards as you need so that each member will find, or uncover if online, each part of the verse.

**Length of activity:** 10 minutes.

- If meeting face-to-face hide the eggs around the room. Allow the children, one at a time, to find an egg and return to their place. Ensure social distance is maintained at all times.
- If doing online, on the decorative side of each egg, write a number. Don't number the cards in the correct order, and display on a card that can be seen easily on the screen.
- Talk about why we eat chocolate eggs at Easter time – they represent new life.
- Each member either hunts for or chooses an egg and reads the word(s) on it.
- Arrange the eggs together correctly and read out the verse.

This verse sums up the Easter message for everyone but also emphasise to the children that Jesus died for them, so that they could experience eternal life i.e. a new life that begins here and now on earth and continues forever with Jesus in heaven.

You may also want to watch *For God so loved the world* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axvzjy8LjoA>



**Upload: Celebrate!**

**You'll need:** A pile of hot toast and something to spread on it, and a Bible or copy of Luke's Gospel.

**Length of activity:** 15-20 minutes.

Whilst enjoying the toast:

Imagine it's the first Easter morning and you're all present when the disciples realised that Jesus really was alive!

- How do you feel?
- What questions would you want to ask Jesus?
- What would you want to say to Him?

Listen to what Jesus is saying to you: Read aloud Luke Ch.24:45-48. Tell the children that just as Jesus told the disciples to be witnesses i.e. to tell others, now THEY must tell others.

Ask the children to share anything that they've personally discovered about Jesus during this badge and give them the opportunity to ask questions. Encourage the children to join with others on Easter Day to celebrate the risen Lord Jesus at a local church or Sunday School, even if this is joining in virtually, perhaps taking the opportunity to send an invitation from the local church(es) to the whole family.

This section gives you the opportunity to celebrate and share the adventure with others.

**Note to leaders/parents/carers:**

Be aware of allergies and food hygiene rules. This activity can only take place face-to-face if we're not on Amber of the COVID-19 guidelines, which prevents serving of food. If you're doing this online make sure you let parents know what their children will need in advance of the session or deliver it to their house beforehand.



**Resource Sheet A**

n:gage

Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**



**GB motto**

Seek,  
Serve  
and  
Follow  
Christ

# Resource Sheet B

n:gage

Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**

## Easter challenge

Make your own bed without being asked.	As you pass their houses pray for your neighbours. Or look out of your window and pray for them.	Sing a favourite song at the top of your voice!	Tell God how much you love Him.	Play a game with your family.
Make some cakes or biscuits to share with your family.	Smile and say hello to as many people as you can!	Tidy your room without being asked.	Read Psalm 23 in the Bible or search for it on your computer/ phone.	Find out three facts about an endangered animal.
Pick up a piece of litter outside your home, school or church and put it in the bin.	Send a letter or card to someone in your family.	Plant some seeds. Don't forget to look after them!	Pray the Lord's Prayer when you go to bed. You can find the words online if you don't know it.	Try to spend a whole day without arguing with anyone.
Find out about someone of your own age living in another country.	Cut down on your screen time – TV/internet/ games and play a board game.	Ask if you can help at home, school or GB.	Be a friend to a shy or quiet person.	Put some money into a 'giving jar' and decide when you'll empty it to give to a charity.
Check through your games and toys and take ones you don't use to a charity shop.	Pay a compliment to a family member, friend or teacher.	Say 'sorry' to someone.	Find and read your favourite Bible story.	Tidy away after your meals today without being asked.
Say 'thank you' to all those who have cared for you today.	Save energy and turn off lights when you leave a room.	Put some food out for the birds and a bowl of fresh water.	Learn the GB motto: Seek, Serve and Follow Christ.	Give yourself a big pat on the back and a treat if you've completed the Easter challenge!

# Resource Sheet C

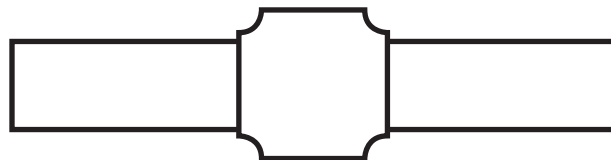
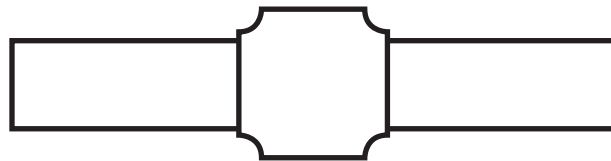
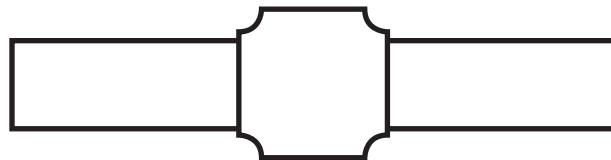
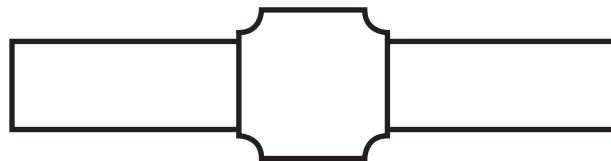
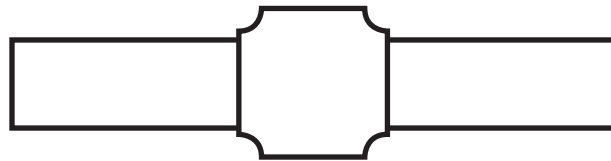
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Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**



## A hand for prayer





# Resource Sheet D

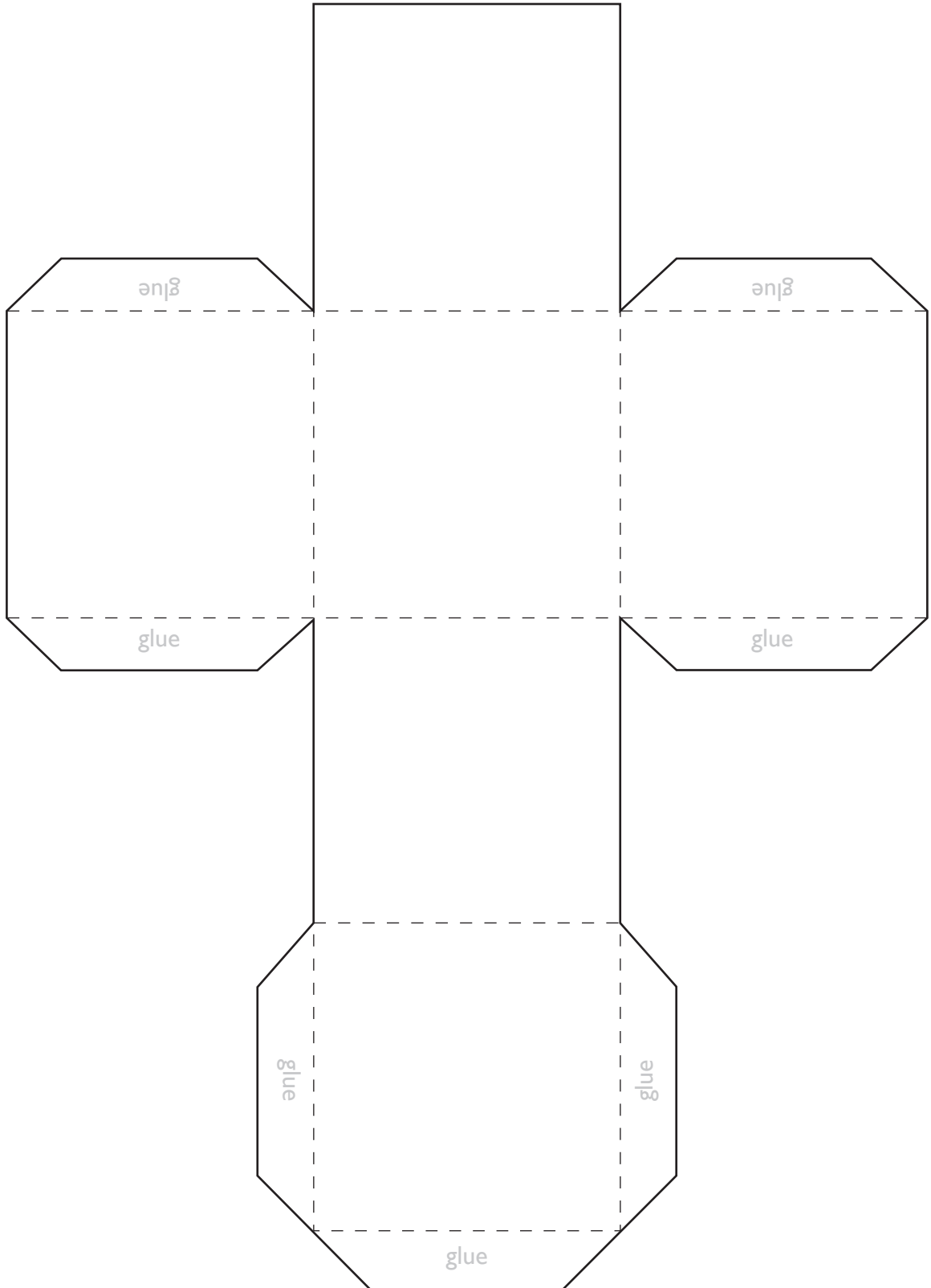
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Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**



## Gift of forgiveness



# Resource Sheet E

n:gage

Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**

**70 x 7**

Day	Activity	Running total
Day 1	70 star jumps	$70 \times 1 = 70$
Day 2	70 steps	$70 \times 2 =$
Day 3	70 sit-ups	$70 \times 3 =$
Day 4	70 skips	$70 \times 4 =$
Day 5	70 squats	$70 \times 5 =$
Day 6	70 toe-touches	$70 \times 6 =$
Day 7	70 hops	$70 \times 7 =$

One day Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone.  
Was it 7 times?

Jesus said no, it was 70 times 7!

Jesus didn't expect us to count the number of times we forgive someone  
but we should always be ready and willing to forgive.

70 times 7 is a big number!

Find out how big...

Engage

Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**

## Bible bits

# Bible Bits

The challenge –

- ✓ To read the Bible every day
- ✓ To listen to what God is saying to YOU
- ✓ To have a weekly 'wow' moment!

**Are you ready for the challenge?**

## Week 1

Meet some friends of Jesus as you read the Bible this week.

Would you like to be a friend of Jesus?

**Day 1** John the Baptist  
Luke Ch.3:21-22

**Day 2** People in His home town  
Luke Ch.4:16-22

**Day 3** Levi the tax collector  
Luke Ch.5:27-32

**Day 4** The disciples  
Luke Ch.6:12-16

**Day 5** A young girl  
Luke Ch.8:40-56

**Day 6** Mary and Martha  
Luke Ch.10:38-42

**Day 7** Children  
Luke Ch.18:15-17

## Week 2

Read some stories Jesus told.

Which is your favourite story?

Why?

**Day 1** The sower  
Luke Ch.8:4-15

**Day 2** The good Samaritan  
Luke Ch.10:25-37

**Day 3** The wedding feast  
Luke Ch.14:7-11

**Day 4** The great banquet  
Luke Ch.14:15-24

**Day 5** The son who left home  
Luke Ch.15:11-32

**Day 6** The widow and the unfair judge  
Luke Ch.18:1-8

**Day 7** The Pharisee and the tax collector  
Luke Ch.18:35-43

# Resource Sheet F

n:gage

Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**

## Bible bits cont.

### Week 3

Jesus could do marvellous things!

Do you think Jesus is amazing?

**Day 1** Healing at Simon's house  
Luke Ch.4:38-39

**Day 2** A HUGE catch of fish  
Luke Ch.5:1-11

**Day 3** The healing of a paralysed man  
Luke Ch.5:17-26

**Day 4** The healing of a man with a crippled hand  
Luke Ch.6:6-11

**Day 5** A soldier's servant is healed  
Luke Ch.7:1-10

**Day 6** Feeding the 5,000  
Luke Ch.9:12-17

**Day 7** A blind man  
Luke Ch.18:35-43

### Week 4

Opposites!

Which sort of person would you rather be?

**Day 1** Wise and foolish  
Luke Ch.6:46-49

**Day 2** Stormy and calm  
Luke Ch.8:22-25

**Day 3** Hungry and full  
Luke Ch.9:10-17

**Day 4** Light and dark  
Luke Ch.11:33-36

**Day 5** Lost and found (1)  
Luke Ch.15:3-7

**Day 6** Lost and found (2)  
Luke Ch.15:8-10

**Day 7** Ungrateful and thankful  
Luke Ch.17:11-19

### Week 5

The Easter Story.

How will you celebrate Easter this year?

**Day 1** The ride into Jerusalem  
Luke Ch.19:28-40

**Day 2** Jesus clears the temple  
Luke Ch.19:45-48

**Day 3** The last supper  
Luke Ch.22:14-20

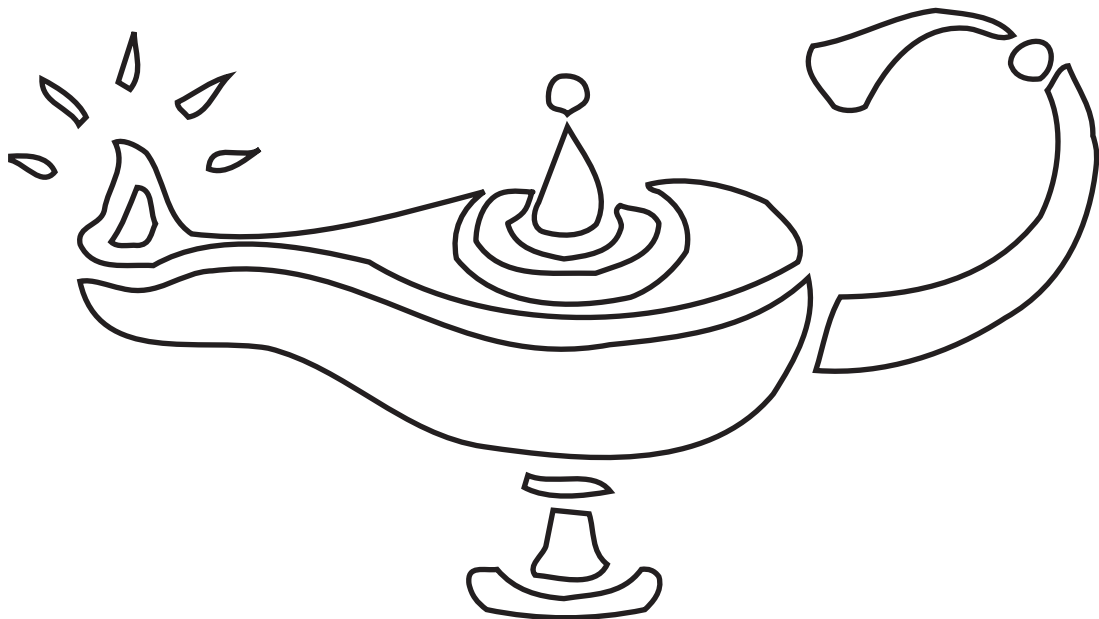
**Day 4** Jesus prays  
Luke Ch.22:39-46

**Day 5** Peter is upset  
Luke Ch.22:54-62

**Day 6** Jesus dies  
Luke Ch.23:44-49

**Day 7** Jesus is alive!  
Luke Ch.24:36-49

**A guiding light**



Your word is a  
lamp for my feet, a  
light for my path.

Psalm 119:105

# Resource Sheet H

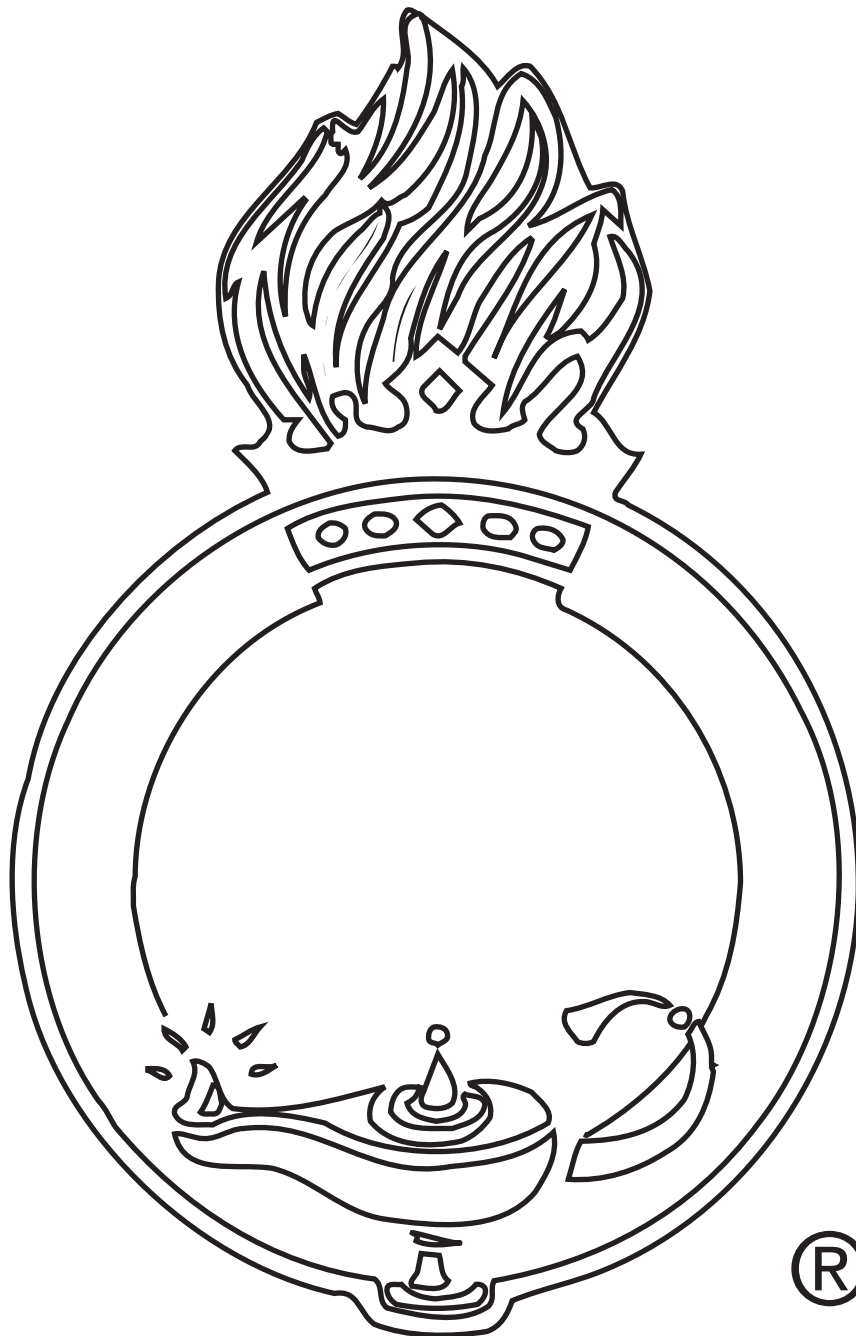
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Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**



**GB badge**



## Why use this adventure?

The **n:gage** programme provides many adventures, each with enough material to use over five weeks. It's designed to help 7-11s to engage with values and characteristics which will enhance their lives and to encourage them with examples of Bible characters who have displayed these qualities.

### This adventure focuses on:

Value/characteristic: **Approaching Easter**

Character: **Jesus**

As this adventure focuses on the experiences of Jesus as He began His journey to the cross, the aim is to help the children to explore what it means to live as a follower of Jesus and to help them appreciate the significance of the GB motto – **Seek, Serve and Follow Christ**.