

you have been chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God. 1 Peter 2v9



CORPS OFFICERS, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WORKERS
Sagala, Kid's Club, Kid's Church, Sunday School,

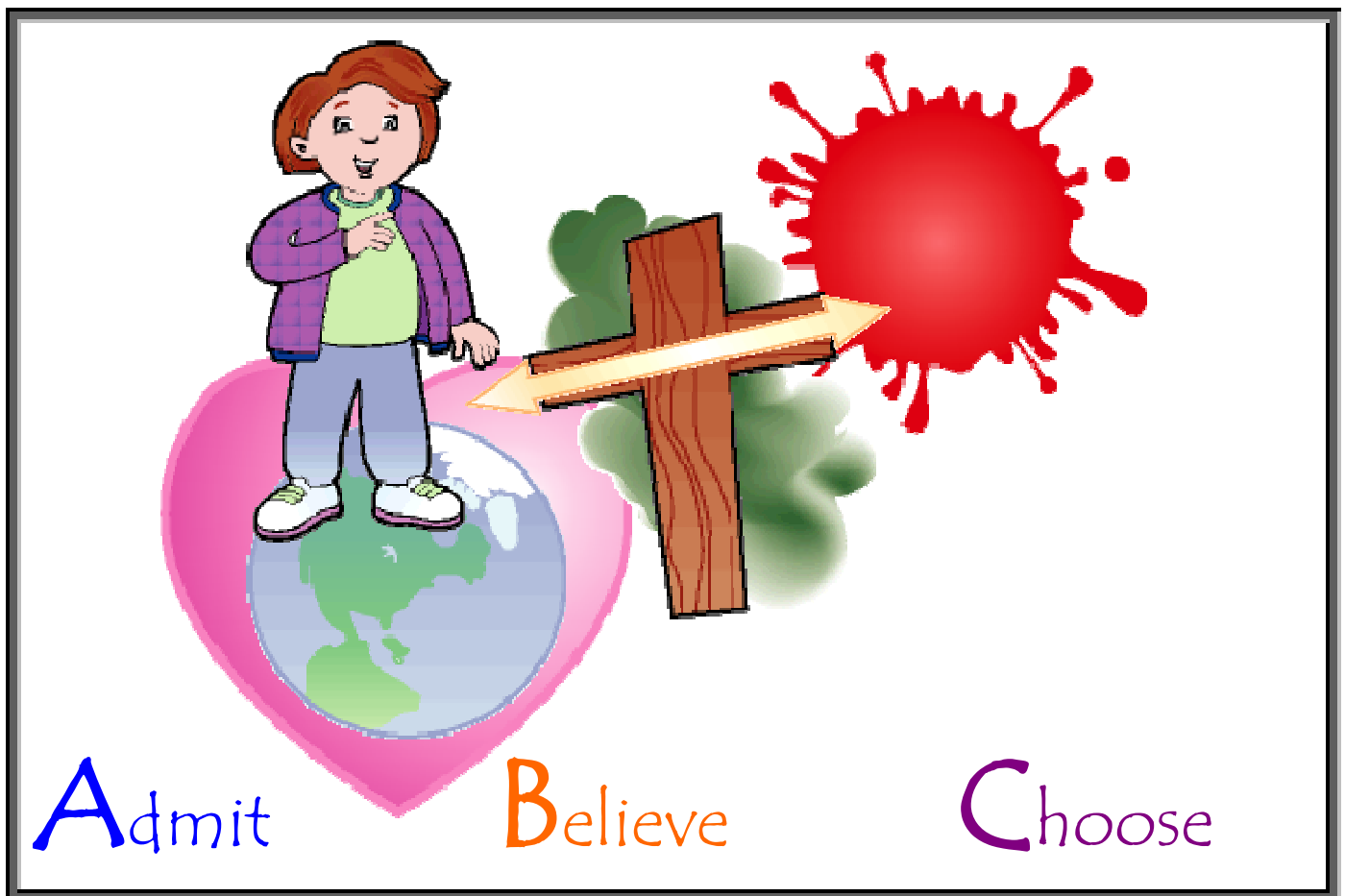


Decision Week

The idea of having decision week is to give opportunities for children to respond to what they are hearing and seeing about God. Some responses will be to the Gospel message that Jesus died for our sins to bring us back to God. Some of these responses will be to take simple, single faith steps. These single steps are important, and can be made by children who have already chosen to live like Jesus as well as by children who are still examining and getting to know God.

An example of that single step commitment might be; *"Today I have learned that God is trustworthy and keeps his promises, so I want to respond by trusting God more."* While this isn't a 'salvation moment', it is still enormously significant.

*Children learn when they are **actively involved**, so the suggested idea is that your kids will be creating a picture similar to this one, that will help them share Jesus with their friends and explain God's plan for their lives.*



Here are some ideas that you might find helpful. God will also give you inspiration, listen to Him. These ideas will also work with pre-schoolers because **they learn by doing**, you will need to think through how it will work in your situation.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

This activity can be done as a large group (everyone together) , small group or groups or individually – **make it fun and messy**. Choose which way you will do it.

Large group

- Use a cardboard box (like a fridge box) open it and paint it white.
- Or a big piece of calico
- Or large piece of butcher paper

Small groups

- A large artist canvas for each group

Individuals

- A piece of cardboard or A4 canvas from the cheap shops.

You'll also need

- Paint or crayons or pencils
- Coloured paper, glue, playdough in different colours, maybe cotton wool, paddle pop sticks
- Children will need their Bible.

The kids add each part to the picture with instructions from you as you read:-

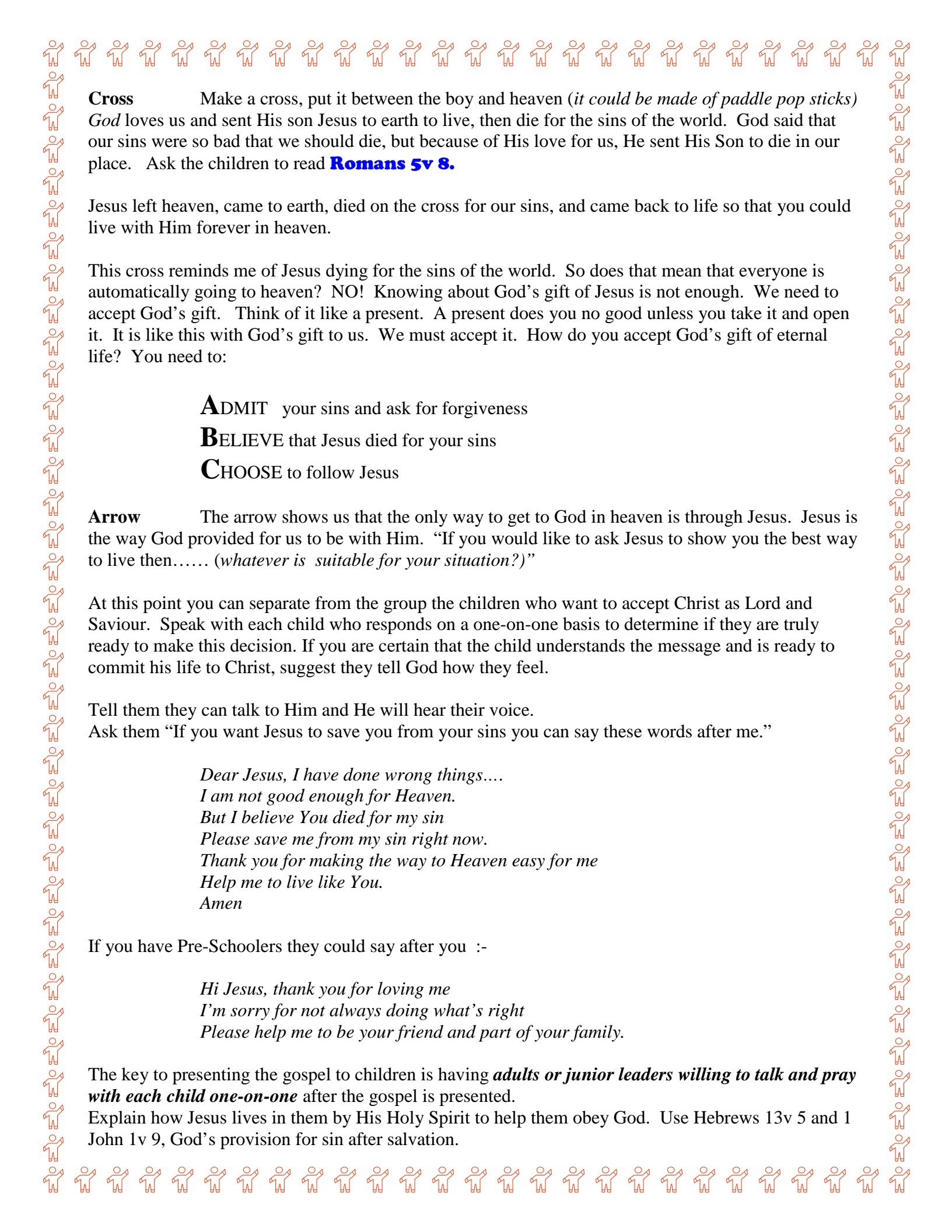
Colourful splat (a random shape) because we don't know what heaven is like. This reminds me of God in heaven. What is heaven like? Heaven is a perfect place. There are no bad things in heaven. Ask a child to read **Deuteronomy 26v 15**. Holy means perfect.

Heart Add a heart which makes me think of God's love. (maybe out of coloured paper and glued on). Check out **1 John 4v 16** in your Bibles.

Earth the world we live in. The earth goes onto the heart (which is God's love) to show that God loves the world. Ask a child to read **John 3v 16**. God created the world and everything on it including the people. Again be creative in how you draw the earth (*it could be playdough or painted*)

Child Now put yourself on the earth. When the Bible says God loves the world that means he loves the people also. He loves me and he loves you. Use your imagination.

Cloud Our world is not perfect because of sin. Sin is an action or thought that God does not like. Add a cloud between the heart & heaven. (*could be cotton wool or painted on*) The cloud reminds me of sin. Notice that the cloud has pushed the child away from God. Sin pushes us away from God. All the children can look us **Romans 6v 23**. This means what we deserve is to be separated from God because of our sin. What are some things that people do that God doesn't like? Who sins? Ask the children to look up Romans 3v23. We all sin. We don't like it but we can't help it. Heaven is a perfect place and God cannot let us go into a perfect heaven with sin in our lives. If God did, what would happen to heaven? God loves us and want us to be with Him, but sin keeps pushing us away. But does God still love us? YES! God loved us so much that He provided a way for our sins to be forgiven. And that way is Jesus.



Cross Make a cross, put it between the boy and heaven (*it could be made of paddle pop sticks*)
God loves us and sent His son Jesus to earth to live, then die for the sins of the world. God said that our sins were so bad that we should die, but because of His love for us, He sent His Son to die in our place. Ask the children to read **Romans 5v 8**.

Jesus left heaven, came to earth, died on the cross for our sins, and came back to life so that you could live with Him forever in heaven.

This cross reminds me of Jesus dying for the sins of the world. So does that mean that everyone is automatically going to heaven? NO! Knowing about God's gift of Jesus is not enough. We need to accept God's gift. Think of it like a present. A present does you no good unless you take it and open it. It is like this with God's gift to us. We must accept it. How do you accept God's gift of eternal life? You need to:

ADMIT your sins and ask for forgiveness

BELIEVE that Jesus died for your sins

CHOOSE to follow Jesus

Arrow The arrow shows us that the only way to get to God in heaven is through Jesus. Jesus is the way God provided for us to be with Him. "If you would like to ask Jesus to show you the best way to live then..... (*whatever is suitable for your situation?*)"

At this point you can separate from the group the children who want to accept Christ as Lord and Saviour. Speak with each child who responds on a one-on-one basis to determine if they are truly ready to make this decision. If you are certain that the child understands the message and is ready to commit his life to Christ, suggest they tell God how they feel.

Tell them they can talk to Him and He will hear their voice.
Ask them "If you want Jesus to save you from your sins you can say these words after me."

*Dear Jesus, I have done wrong things....
I am not good enough for Heaven.
But I believe You died for my sin
Please save me from my sin right now.
Thank you for making the way to Heaven easy for me
Help me to live like You.
Amen*

If you have Pre-Schoolers they could say after you :-

*Hi Jesus, thank you for loving me
I'm sorry for not always doing what's right
Please help me to be your friend and part of your family.*

The key to presenting the gospel to children is having **adults or junior leaders willing to talk and pray with each child one-on-one** after the gospel is presented.
Explain how Jesus lives in them by His Holy Spirit to help them obey God. Use Hebrews 13v 5 and 1 John 1v 9, God's provision for sin after salvation.

These four things will help you grow as a Christian:

1. Pray: talk to God every day.
2. Read and obey the Bible.
3. Tell others about Jesus.
4. When you sin, ask God for forgiveness

Our kids need to be out in the world experiencing that being a Christian is an active, living, everyday thing. ***We have the best news in the world!*** Jesus died for us to provide a way for us to be with God forever! He loves us and wants to have a special relationship with us.

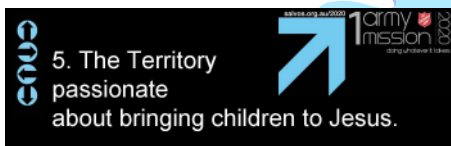
We need to tell others this good news! Encourage all the kids to show their canvas to ***family and friends***, sharing what each part of the picture reminds them of. Put them up in the hall,, or show them in Kid's Time and let the kids explain what it means. Share it with their world.

Ask them to share with each other their story by using the picture they've created.

Here are some other ways to tell.

- Invite someone to an activity or event sponsored by the church.
- Tell someone why Jesus is important to you.
- E-mail a friend and tell him/her how Jesus became your special friend and why that is important.
- Txt a friend and tell them about Jesus.

SUGGESTED SONG - ONE WAY JESUS - Hillsong United



Ask your corps folk to pray that the kids will respond to Jesus.

- ☺ Jot down a kid- appropriate version of your story, your personal testimony.
- ☺ Find real examples to make Christianity real to children
- ☺ Choose child-friendly words to express your story
- ☺ Chat with kids in a natural way about their spiritual journey.
 - How has their day been?
 - What prayers have they been praying?
 - How God has helped them during the day.
 - How they have been temped and what they did?
 - Be willing to answers these questions yourself.

You have an **awesome and exciting** ministry, You are on a journey with the children in your care, guiding them, helping them, picking them up when they stumble. Thanks for bringing the Bible to life! Thanks for living out Psalm 71v17 "*Let me proclaim your power to this new generation, your mighty miracles to all who come after me*".