

Decision Resources

'My Friend Jesus'



This material is suitable for ages 5 - 7 years.

Aim:

To encourage the children to know Jesus as their friend first so they share this great news with others..

Bible focus:

Acts 10:1 - 8, 38 - 42, 44 - 45.

You will need:

Colouring pencils/textas and an A4 piece of paper for each child, divided into three equal sections.

Introduction:

Colouring pencils/textas and an A4 piece of paper for each child, divided into three equal sections.

Ask the children to draw a picture to go with these three statements:

- ◆ Draw what you think Jesus looks like.
- ◆ Draw a face to show how you feel when I say, 'Jesus is always with you'.
- ◆ Draw a picture of the person who told you about Jesus.

(Allow some time for the children to share their pictures or answers with the group. If your group is large, you may have them form groups or pairs to share their answers. Display the pictures when you have finished talking about them.)

In your third picture you drew a person who told you about Jesus. Why did you believe them when they told you? (You may get answers like: 'because they are my parents', 'because I know this person', 'because this person wouldn't lie', 'because I just did'. There are no wrong answers here.)

Some of you told me you believed the person who told you about Jesus because you knew them and you trusted them. Lots of people today know about Jesus for that same reason. Someone they knew and trusted was already good friends with Jesus and told them about Him and what He did for us so they could be good friends with Him too.

There was a man in the Bible named Peter who was good friends with Jesus and he told lots of people about Him. We're going to listen to a story now about a time when Peter got the chance to help someone become friends with Jesus.

Bible time:

You will need: Reusable adhesive (e.g. blu-tac), a large sheet of paper and a marker/texta.

Retell the following story from Acts 10:1 - 8, 38 - 42, 44 - 45. Use the script below or retell it in your own words. As you tell the story, draw the pictures as directed.

(Draw two large circles on your paper.) Peter was one man in our story and Cornelius was the other. These two circles will be their faces. We'll fill them in as I tell the story.

Cornelius was a soldier in the Roman army. The Roman army was in charge of Israel. They were like the police for that day. Cornelius already knew about God and believed in Him. We think Cornelius had heard about God from some Jewish friends and the Bible tells us Cornelius would pray to God all the time. But Cornelius needed to know more and one day God sent an angel to him. (Draw in some eyes on the first picture.) Cornelius saw this angel and was afraid. He'd never seen an angel before. But the angel said, 'Don't be afraid. God has heard your prayers and he wants you to go and find a man named Peter who is staying in Joppa. Peter can tell you more about God.'

So after that Cornelius told his friends about the angel (draw a mouth on the first picture) and they went to Joppa to find Peter.

Meanwhile, Peter was in Joppa and he saw Cornelius' friends at the front door of the house. (Draw in some eyes on the second picture.) God came to Peter in a dream. God told Peter it was alright to go with these men to meet Cornelius. God told Peter that he was going to have the chance to tell someone about God's Son Jesus.

So Peter went to Cornelius' house. When Peter got there he heard what Cornelius had to say. (Draw some ears on the second picture.) Cornelius said (point to the mouth on the first picture) that he had been visited by an angel who told him to find Peter. God told Cornelius to listen to Peter. (Draw some ears on the first picture.)

So Cornelius listened (point to the ears on the first picture) while Peter told him all about Jesus. (Draw in a mouth on the second picture.) Peter told Cornelius that Jesus was God's Son, that Jesus came to tell people that God loved them and they had to listen to Him and



follow Him. Peter also told Cornelius how Jesus was killed on a cross to save people from their sins and that He rose again so that people could be saved. Peter said that all anyone had to do was believe that Jesus did all this and they could become Jesus' friend.

Now while Peter was speaking Cornelius and all his friends believed and the Holy Spirit came and it was an amazing time for everyone in that room.

Because Peter told (point to the mouth on the second picture) Cornelius about Jesus, and Cornelius listened (point to the ears on the first picture) Cornelius became Jesus' friend too.

Response time:

We can tell people about Jesus too but first we have to be Jesus' friend. If Peter hadn't known Jesus really well, he would have found it really hard to tell Cornelius and his friends about Jesus.

It's not very hard to be Jesus' friend. All we have to do is tell Jesus we believe that He died for us, say sorry for the things we've done wrong and ask Him to be our friend and help us live the way He wants us to.

If you have never told Jesus you want to be His friend, you can do that right now. We are going to pray together and if you would like to pray along with me, you can do that. I will stop during the prayer to allow you the chance to pray it quietly yourself. When we have finished, it would be really great if you could come and tell me or one of the leaders that you prayed this prayer with me. We would like to know so that we can pray for you in a special way this week and if you have any more questions, we'd like to be able to help you find the answers.

Prayer time:

Dear Jesus I would like to be your friend today. (pause) I believe you died for me (pause), I'm sorry for the wrong things I've done (pause) and for the times when I have not lived the way you would like me to (pause). Please forgive me and help me to live your way (pause). Amen.

Follow up:

Try to encourage the children who have made first time decisions to come and talk to you or another leader after this session. There may be questions that some children would like to ask and this opportunity will help them to do that.

Some age-appropriate Bible Reading notes may also be helpful. These resources are available from your local Scripture Union Resources For Ministry bookshop ph. 02 4321 0200 or check out the website www.su.org.au/rfm. Make time to go through the Bible Reading notes with their parents and the children to ensure they have a good understanding of how to use these notes.





Today I asked Jesus
to help me live the
right way:

- for the first time
- again

I will use *God's Word* to help me
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