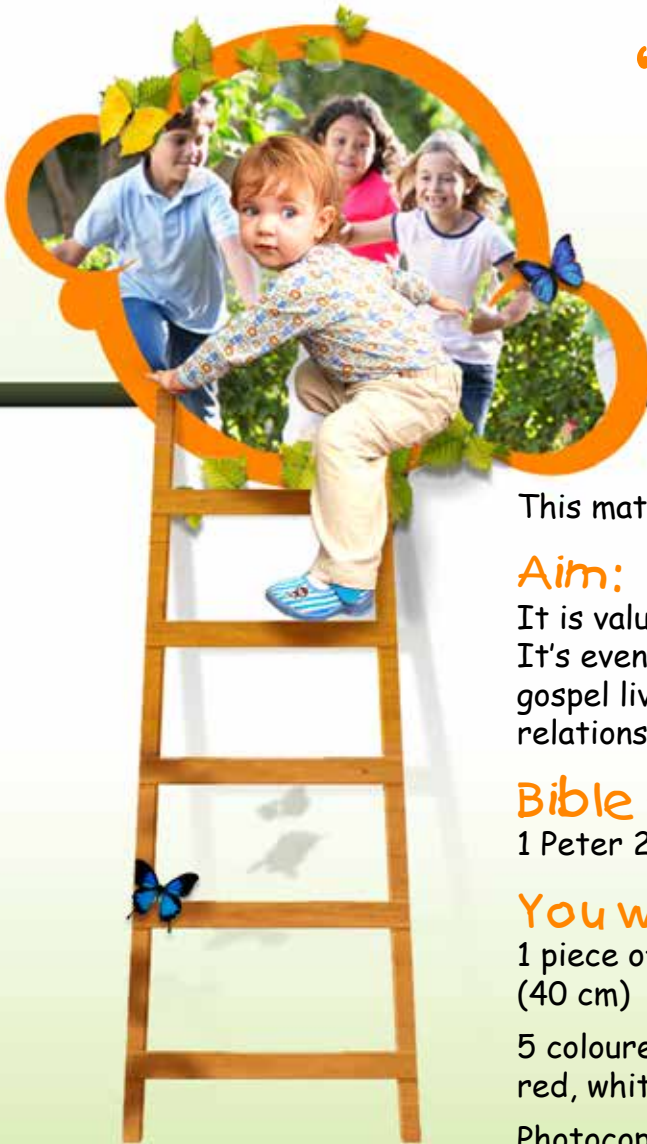


'The Love Of Jesus'



This material is suitable for ages 5 - 8+ years.

Aim:

It is valuable to tell the gospel story to children. It's even more valuable for children to see the gospel lived out by you, as you enjoy an everyday relationship with Jesus.

Bible focus:

1 Peter 2:9.

You will need:

1 piece of cord, hat elastic or leather per child (40 cm)

5 coloured beads per child (1 each of yellow, black, red, white, green)

Photocopy 2 sides 'salvation colour cards' (attached)

Cut them into individual cards, make a hole in one corner with a hole punch where it won't interfere with the text.

Introduction:

As you sit together, chat about what the colours mean, look at the Bible verses – see below for an outline you can follow.

- ◆ Tie a knot slightly off centre
- ◆ Add the beads to the longer end of the cord by threading them on in this order: gold, black, red, white

If they are making it for a friend.

- ◆ Thread the card onto the cord
- ◆ Thread on the green bead

- ◆ Tie a knot next to the green bead to hold the beads in place in the centre of the cord.

For your information:

- ◆ Children rarely need long explanations, just simple answers to questions.
- ◆ Never put pressure on children to respond in a particular way, just help them to take one step closer to Jesus when they are ready.
- ◆ Remember, for many children there are a number of commitments as their understanding grows.

Bible time:

A story so special, it doesn't even need words...

Gold tells about who God is:

The Bible tells us that heaven is a beautiful place.

Revelation 21:21: "The street of the city was made of pure gold. The gold was clear as glass." God made you and He loves you very much. He wants you to one day live with Him forever in Heaven. He also has a perfect plan for your life here on earth.

Jesus came to give you a beautiful life:

"But I came to give life – life in all its fullness." John 10:10

God is holy, or pure. His home in heaven is holy and pure, too. The Bible tells us that the streets in Heaven will be made of gold. God is preparing a place for you in Heaven. Heaven is a wonderful place. The Bible tells us that there will not be any sickness, suffering, crying, pain or death in Heaven.

But there is one thing that can never enter Heaven. **That is sin.**

Black (darkness) tells about our problem:

Romans 3:23: "all people have sinned and are not good enough for God's glory."

Everyone has sinned. Sin is anything that does not please God. Everyone has done something wrong in their life like lying, stealing, or having a bad attitude. This leaves a stain on our lives, like getting our clothes dirty when we play outside, we are stained with sin. The Bible says that sin must be punished. That means to be separated from God forever and ever. There is nothing man can do to solve this problem.

But God has a wonderful plan so that you and I don't have to be punished for our sins.



Red tells about the solution:

Romans 5:8 "But God has shown us how much He loves us - it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us".

Now comes the good part of the story: God has a solution (answer) to this problem: JESUS! Jesus was perfect. He never did anything wrong. He is the perfect Son of God. He willingly took your punishment on the cross. God put your sin on Him. Jesus gave His blood for us. It is the blood that came from Jesus when He died on the cross that can clean us from the stain of sin.

Jesus died but He didn't stay dead. He rose again.

1 Corinthians 15:3 - 4: "that Christ died for our sins, as the Scriptures say, that He was buried and raised to life on the third day". Now Jesus is in Heaven. And now because of what Jesus did for you, you can have your sins forgiven."

White tells about being washed clean from sin:

Do you want to ask Jesus to forgive you and clean you of the stain of sin?

Do you want to become God's child and live with Him forever in Heaven?

Then what you need to do is: tell Jesus you are sorry for your sins and He will forgive you:

1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He will forgive our sins. We can trust God. He does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrongs that we have done."

When you pray to tell Jesus you're sorry and ask Him to always be your friend. You can begin to live as God's child here on earth:

John 1: 12 "They believed in Him. To them He gave the right to become children of God".

Green tells us how to grow strong as a Christian:

Green reminds us of things that grow. Now that you have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, you should grow in Him. Matthew 18:20, John 1:7 Here are some things that you can do to grow strong in your life in Christ:

1. Pray every day.
2. Read & obey the Bible.
3. Go to Sunday School/ Kid's Club.
4. Tell others about Jesus. (if you make a bracelet, explain the colours to your family and friends).



Ask children if they want to tell Jesus they are sorry and want Him to help them do the right thing, to talk with a leader.

Prayer:

Many children need a bit of help knowing what to say to God. Here is a suggested prayer they could use to start a relationship with Jesus.

"Jesus, I am sorry for my sin. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Forgive me. Make me a child of God. Change my life and make me into what you want me to be. Fill me with love, peace, and joy. Amen."

Follow up:

Ensure you follow up any children who indicate they said this prayer with you for the first time.

There are many resources available from Scripture Union's Resources For Ministry bookshop ph. 02 4337 0200 or check out the website www.scriptureunion.org.au/resources/ministry.htm.

Linking them in to other sections in the corps which they may not already be attending e.g. Sunday School or Kids Club, will also help with their ongoing spiritual development.

