

John

Chapters 1-10



Name: _____

John chapters 1-10

Jesus is God himself

**...come to bring his new creation
...and rescue a new people**

In the section of John's gospel that we're looking at this term we see who Jesus is and what he has come to do.

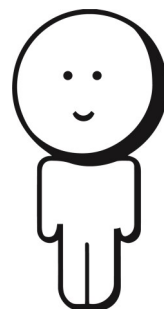
Are you in or out?

John's gospel calls for a decision. We all need to decide if we will receive or reject Jesus who has come to give eternal life.

Memory verse

This is the verse from John that we'll be learning this term.

**"Yet to all who did receive
him, to those who believed
in his name, he gave the
right to become children of
God" John 1v12**



Using the material – a guide for parents

This term, rather than give out Take Home Sheets we've put together a little study for each week of Sunday School.

We hope these studies will help you:

- To know what we've been teaching in Sunday school - so you can talk to your child about it and pray for them as they hear of the Lord Jesus from John's gospel
- To give you an opportunity to dig into the passage with your child and clarify or build their understanding
- To give you an opportunity to help your child think through further how they are responding to what they're hearing in God's word.

We hope that this will enable us to better partner with you as you continue you to teach your children about the Lord Jesus.

You could go through the study over a meal time or at bedtime. You could also do the study over a whole week, doing a question each day. Why not get into the habit of praying with your children, asking for God's help, before you start the study. Then cover as much of the study as you feel able to with the age and attention span of your children.

Here are some ideas:

- For small children, you might choose to just look at the story recap, the first 'look' question and then to pray.
- Slightly older children might be able to look at one of the 'think' questions too, and the oldest may manage to cover all the questions.
- If you have older children, who want to go further than the study, you could read the rest of the passage (full passage indicated in at the top of each page) with them and think together what it adds to our understanding of the big idea.

God himself has come!

God is coming to bring life

This term we're looking at the gospel of John. John was a disciple of Jesus— in-fact, he was Jesus' best friend. John wrote his gospel because he wanted his readers to know something very important. He decided to write a book about the most important person who has ever lived: Jesus. There are lots of things John could have written about Jesus. He could have written a book about what Jesus looked like, or a book about Jesus' favourite foods. But John carefully chose some very special things to help his readers see something important: that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He did this because he knew, if people believed this, they would become children of God; and as a child of God they would have good, joyful, everlasting life.

This week John starts his gospel with a summary (an overview) of what he will say. The creator God is coming into the world to bring new life; would people receive him or reject him?

? Get thinking

Think of a time when you joined a new club, or class at school. Did the other children receive you or reject you?



Read

John 1:9-13

Look

Look at verse 11 and 12. The light came into the world to give life. What did people do?

Look closer... What do the people who believe become?

Activity

To receive someone you might hug them. To reject someone you might push them away. What would you do to the following people?



◇ Receive

◇ Reject



◇ Receive

◇ Reject



◇ Receive

◇ Reject



Think

Hm... How does someone become a child of God?

Hmm... Why is it good that John didn't write about Jesus' favourite food?

Hmmm... Why does the creator God need to bring new life again?



Apply

As we read through John's gospel we will need to make a decision: will we receive or reject Jesus?



Pray

Let's praise God for coming to bring new life.

God himself has come!

Jesus is THE Promised One

As we read John's gospel, we need to remember that God's people had been waiting for hundreds of years for the amazing things God had promised through his prophets in the Old Testament. God had promised that someone special would come - the Promised One. The Promised One would be God himself. He would bring in an amazing new creation and rescue a new people to live with him there. The waiting was like a long drumroll getting faster and louder. Everyone was getting excited, waiting for the cymbal to crash when the Promised One arrived. But then, in this week's passage, a man called John arrives. Everyone gets really excited! Is this him? Is this God's Promised One? No. John's not the Promised One but it's really exciting that he's arrived because of the special job that he has come to do. John says he is the one who's here to prepare the way of the Lord. he's here to get people ready for the promised one and point to him when he arrives. And then, CRASH! The drumroll stops and we hear the cymbal. Look - He's here! Says John. The promised One has FINALLY arrived!

? Get thinking

Have you ever had to wait a really long time for something exciting?
What was it?

+ Read

John 1:19-20 and
verse 29

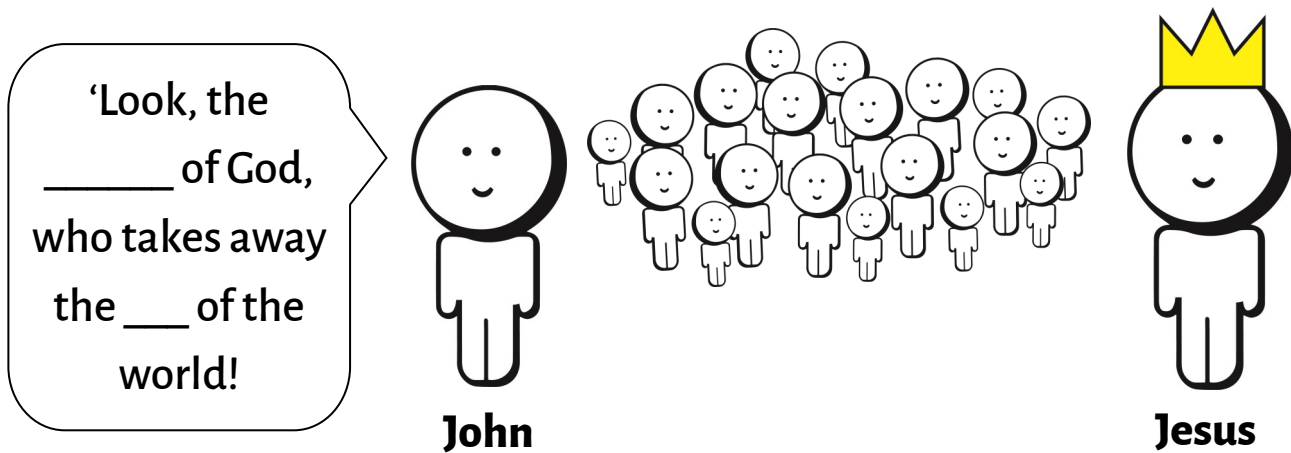
👁️ Look

Look at verse 29. John is not the promised one but who does he say that Jesus is?

Look closer... What does John say Jesus, the Promised One, has come to do?

Activity

Draw an arrow on the picture to show who John points to. Then, using v29, fill in the speech bubble with what John says about him.



Think

Hm... Why is it exciting that after hundred's of year God's promised one is finally here?

Hmm... John's job is to point everyone to Jesus, the Promised One. Why is John's job so important?

Hmmm... Why is it great that Jesus, has come to take away the sin of the whole world?

Apply

What does all this make you think about Jesus and how important he is?

Pray

Let's praise God for sending his promised one, Jesus.

God himself has come... To bring his new creation

Jesus is the bridegroom

The signs in John's gospel show us who Jesus is so that we might believe in him. The first sign Jesus did was at a wedding. Unfortunately the bridegroom at this wedding hadn't bought enough wine and it run out - oh no, the party had to stop! But Jesus fixed it, he turned some water into wine (pew), Jesus did the job of the bridegroom; it's like he became the bridegroom.

In the Old Testament God called himself a bridegroom. He promised that one day he would marry his people. He promised that he would love them and care for them and bring them into his new creation.

Jesus turning water into wine is a sign. The sign shows us that Jesus is God—the bridegroom of his Gods people. This was the start of a whole new age. The bridegroom had come to marry his people. This is only the first sign, but already the disciples of Jesus believed him.

? Get thinking

Have you ever been to a wedding?
What did you enjoy about it?

+ Read

John 2:1-11
Can you picture what is happening?

👁 Look

Look at verses 8-10. What was Jesus' wine like?

Look closer... Has the master of the banquet praised the right bridegroom?



Activity

Jesus turning water into wine is a sign. Which of the following can we put in the sign?

Not doing anything

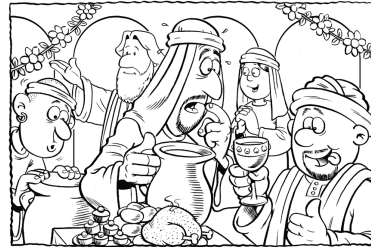
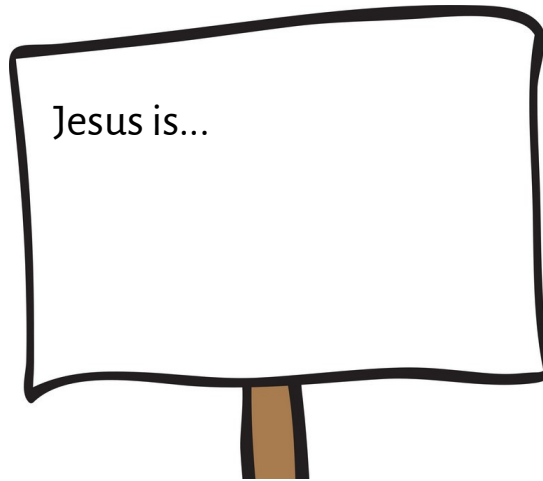
God

The bridegroom

bringing in a whole new age

Caring

Nobody



Jesus



Think

Hm... In John's gospel what do the signs show us?

Hmm... What does turning water into wine show us about Jesus?

Hmmm... Why is this story really exciting?



Apply

How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus is the bridegroom?



Pray

Let's thank God for sending Jesus to be our bridegroom.

God himself has come... To bring his new creation

Jesus is the judging King

Today's story involves the temple. The temple was very special because it was the place where God came to live with his people. It was where people made sacrifices so that their sin could be forgiven and they could have a relationship with God.

But the temple couldn't do this completely. It was just a picture pointing forward to something even better. It was pointing to a time when sins would be forgiven *completely* and when God could live with his people in perfect relationship *forever*.

When Jesus enters the temple in our story he is rightly angry. He sees how the temple, the 'old way', can't fix our relationship with God. Jesus has come to judge the 'old way' and bring in the new thing it pointed to. Jesus has come to replace the temple with himself. He's going to do what is needed to fix people's relationship with God forever. When he dies, his death will pay for sin (so we don't need loads of sacrifices). His death is going to mean that God can actually live with his people in his new creation forever.

? Get thinking

Can you think of the last time something of yours got old or broken and you had to replace it with something new?

+ Read

John 2:14-15 and 18-22

👁️ Look

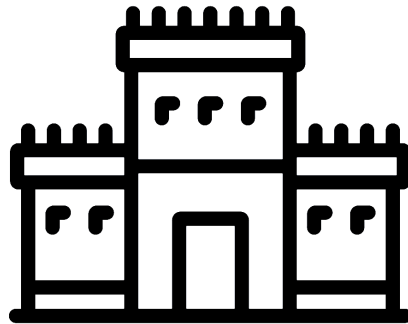
Look at verses 14 to 15. What does Jesus do when he finds what's going on in the temple?

Look closer... Look at verse 18-22. The temple is going to be destroyed because it doesn't work to fix our relationship with God completely. What does Jesus say he's going to replace the temple with?

Activity

Put a cross through the picture of what Jesus says is going to be destroyed.

The temple



Jesus

Put a circle around the thing that will replace the temple and can fix our relationship with God forever.



Think

Hm... Why was Jesus angry that people were treating the temple, God's house, badly?

Hmm... Why is it a good thing that Jesus is judging the old way that doesn't work?

Hmmm... Why is it great that Jesus, has come to fix our relationship with God?



Apply

How is what we see of Jesus today different to how we often think of him?



Pray

Let's praise God for Jesus who can fix our relationship with God.

God himself has come... To bring his new creation

How to get eternal life - be born again

How can we enter God's kingdom? How can we be a part of God's new creation and receive eternal life?

Today Jesus tells us the answer. To get inside God's kingdom we must be born again! That is what Jesus told Nicodemus when they met one night time. What a surprise for Nicodemus! He was a well-respected, important teacher in Israel. He knew all about God's law and all about the Old Testament. He tried to do what God wanted. But none of these things meant he was inside God's kingdom. That is not how it works with God. To get inside God's kingdom, Nicodemus needed a new birth. God needed to change him on the inside, to take away his sinful heart and give him a new heart. To be born again Nicodemus needed to believe in Jesus.

? Get thinking

Have you ever been to a dressing-up party? What did you wear? At a dressing up party you can only enter if you're wearing a costume.



Read

John 3:1-15

👁 Look

Look at verse 3. How can someone see the kingdom of God?

Look closer... What will people miss out on if they are not born again.



Activity

How do you enter a...

- house? _____
- party? _____
- cinema? _____



Think

Hm... How can someone be part of God's kingdom?

Hmm... Why might some people think that a man like Nicodemus should get eternal life?

Hmmm... Why do people need to be born again if they want to get eternal life?



Apply

How do you think you can get into God's kingdom?



Pray

Let's thank God that he can give us new life.

God himself has come... To bring his new creation Jesus offers eternal life - to anyone!

Last time we were thinking about how can we get inside God's kingdom. We saw that to get inside God's kingdom, to be a part of God's new creation and receive eternal life we must be born again! Today we're going to think about who can be inside God's kingdom.

In our story, Jesus meets a woman by a well in a place called Samaria. Jews, like Jesus, normally didn't like Samaritans. What's more, she hadn't lived a very good life. Even her own people didn't want to know her. She seemed like the opposite to religious and respected Nicodemus in our last story

But.... Jesus offers her the most amazing thing in the world. He offers her living water. Not water like you have with your lunch—Jesus is using water as a picture for life. What Jesus offers is eternal life and he offers it to this woman. The woman comes to believe who Jesus is and tells her whole town too! So who can have eternal life? Who can be inside God's kingdom? Anyone can! Anyone who believes.

? Get thinking

Think about the plants in your garden or in the park. What would happen if they didn't get any water?

+ Read

John 4:13-14 and 42

👁 Look

Look at verse 14. What does Jesus offer to give the woman.

Look closer... In verse 42, who do the people in the Samaritan town come to believe that Jesus is?



Activity

Circle the in red the words that refer to Nicodemus and in green the Samaritan woman.

A Samaritan

A woman

Met Jesus at night

Met Jesus in the day

A man

Respected

Not respected

A Jew

Met Jesus in the daytime



Think

Hm... Why does Jesus use the picture of water for eternal life?

Hmm... Why might it be surprising that this woman believes in Jesus but Nicodemus didn't?

Hmmm... Why is it wonderful that anyone who believes in Jesus can have eternal life?



Apply

Think of the least likely person you that you think could come to know Jesus. How can this story change the way you think of them?



Pray

Let's praise God that Jesus is the Saviour of the world—who gives anyone who believes in him eternal life.

God himself has come... To bring his new creation

Jesus gives new life, just by speaking

A boy was sick. He was dying. His father, a royal official, heard that Jesus had come back to Cana again, where he had turned water into wine. The boy's father rushed to see Jesus. He begged Jesus to come and heal his son. But Jesus didn't come, instead he said to the man, "Go, your son shall live."

So the man went. On the way home he was met by some of his servants. They had good news. His boy was alive! Amazing! When did he get better? They replied, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon." This was the exact time that Jesus had said, "Your son shall live."

All Jesus did was speak. With his words Jesus gave life to a boy who was nearly dead. He wasn't even near him. Remember how in the beginning God created everything just by speaking. He spoke and there was life. This sign shows us that Jesus is the creator God who gives new life.

? Get thinking

Have you ever tried to make something live? (Maybe a dead beetle, or your Lego toy)

+ Read

John 4:49-54

👁 Look

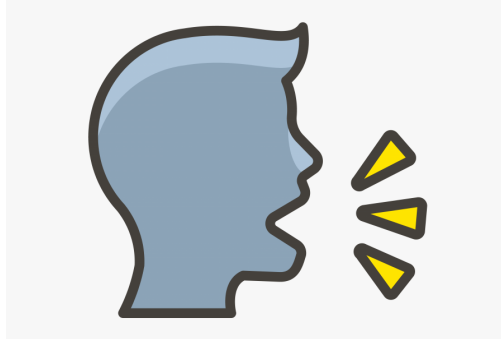
Look at verses 50-53. What did Jesus say to the official?

Look closer... When did the son get better?

Activity

Try to create life yourself by speaking. Look into the middle of the room and try to create the following animals just by speaking:

- Hippopotamus
- Dog
- Chimpanzee
- Dolphin



Think

Hm... Why did the official go to Jesus?

Hmm... Why does Jesus give new life?

Hmmm... Having seen the sign, what did the official and his family do?

Apply

Jesus gave new life to the official's son. Do we believe he has given new life to us?

Pray

If you haven't already, why don't you ask God to give you new life.

God himself has come to bring his new creation... And rescue a new people

Jesus gives eternal life - even though he's rejected

Remember right back in the beginning of the bible, in Genesis, God the Father gave life to everything. He just spoke, and there was life. Last time we saw that Jesus, God's Son, spoke and gave new life to a boy who was dying. In today's story Jesus heals a man who had been lame, that means he couldn't walk, for 38 years. Jesus heals him just by his words! But... the Jewish leaders are really angry at Jesus. What? Why? They were angry because they think he shouldn't be working on the Sabbath. On one day every week people had a day away from their work. Only God worked on the Sabbath. Now Jesus, God's Son, is doing the same work as his Father. Jesus tells us that the work of God his Father is to give life to people but also to punish all who are against him. God does this work by speaking his powerful words and now Jesus does the same work as his Father. Jesus has the same job as God, giving life and judging. So the Jewish leaders who reject Jesus are rejecting God himself who gives life.

? Get thinking

In the olden days children would often do the same job as their Mums or Dads. What job would that mean you would do?



Read

John 5:8-9 and 19-23

Look

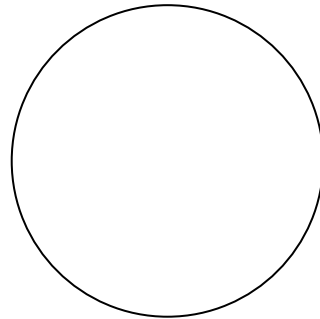
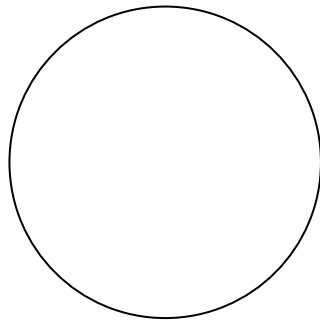
Look at verse 19. Who does Jesus do the same job as?

Look closer... Look at verses 21-23. What two parts does Jesus' job have?



Activity

Draw a face in the first circle that shows how the Jewish leaders felt about Jesus.



Draw a face in the second circle that shows how you feel about Jesus.



Think

Hm... The Jewish leaders get really angry at Jesus. What don't they understand about who he is?

Hmm... Jesus gives life and judges by his word. How does that help us understand how powerful Jesus' words are?

Hmmm... Why is it so important to believe in Jesus, God's Son who gives life and judges, rather than to reject him?



Apply

Jesus gives life to anyone who believes in him! Think about yourself. Have you believed in Jesus or are you rejecting him?



Pray

If you've asked God already, thank him that he's given you eternal life - even if for the first time recently!

God himself has come to bring his new creation... And rescue a new people

Jesus gives eternal life - by rescuing us

Last time we heard that Jesus is God's Son and he does the same work as his Father. In John chapter 6 we hear about something else Jesus did which is similar to what his Father did a long time ago. There are three clues in this chapter to help us look back to the Old Testament: it was Passover time, there was bread to eat in the middle of nowhere, and some water was crossed in an unusual and amazing way. What does it remind you of? The Exodus! When God rescued his people out of slavery in Egypt.

Well, Jesus shows us that just like God rescued his people then, Jesus has come to earth to rescue people too. Jesus hasn't come to rescue people from Egypt or Pharaoh or anything like that. Jesus came to earth to rescue us from our sin and from the punishment of death our sins deserve.

? Get thinking

Can you remember what happened in the Exodus? Can you remember the 'Passover', the crossing of the Red Sea, and manna from heaven?



Read

John 6:3-13

Look

Look at verse 11. What did Jesus give the people?

Look closer... How much did Jesus give the people?



Activity

Rearrange these letters to form words that make sense:

Ssuej

cssueer

pleope

rmfo

athed



Think

Hm... What does feeding lots of people in the wilderness remind you of?

Hmm... Why has Jesus performed this miracle?

Hmmm... Why might John need to write this down for us to hear?



Apply

Jesus rescues people from death and gives them eternal life. Do you think this is good news?



Pray

Let's thank God for sending Jesus to rescue us.

God himself has come to bring his new creation... And rescue a new people

Jesus gives eternal life - this matters most

In our last story Jesus fed 5000 people with just a few loaves of bread in the middle of nowhere. This shows us that, just like God rescued his people in the Exodus, Jesus has come to earth to rescue people too. Jesus came to earth to rescue us from our sin and from the punishment of death that our sins deserve. The next day, the crowds of people come back to Jesus again -they want some more bread to fill their tummies! But Jesus says to them "I am the bread of life". We need food, like bread, keeps us alive. Without it we die! But we need Jesus to keep us alive even more than food. Jesus says he is the bread of life because he can keep us alive. The life Jesus gives people is eternal life.

Jesus gives us what matters the most, eternal life. It might seem that other things are more important most of the time. Things like sports or friends or food! But believing in Jesus is the most important thing. He gives us eternal life.

? Get thinking

Think about the last meal you had.
What was it? Why do we need to eat food?



Read

John 6:26-27 and 35-40

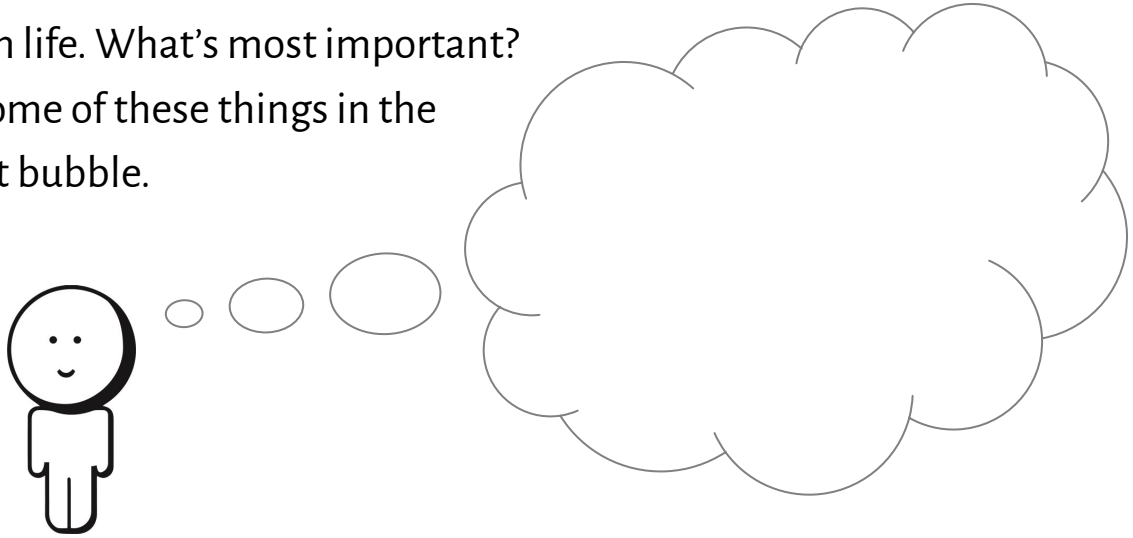
👁️ Look

Look at verse 35. What does Jesus say that he is?

Look closer... Look at verse 29. What must we do to get the eternal life Jesus offers?

Activity

Have a think about what matters most to you in life. What's most important? Draw some of these things in the thought bubble.



Think

Hm... Why is it often hard to remember that what Jesus gives us matters the most?

Hmm... Why does Jesus call himself the bread of life?

Hmmm... Why do we need Jesus more than bread?

Apply

Why does what Jesus gives us matter more than anything else?

Pray

Let's thank God for Jesus who gives us the thing that matters the most.

God himself has come to bring his new creation... **And rescue a new people** **Jesus is the rejected rescuer**

It was festival time and lots of people were in Jerusalem. Everyone was talking about Jesus. John tells us what the people thought as they whispered amongst themselves. Some said, "He is a good man". Others disagreed. "He's a bad man. He deceives people." Some said to Jesus "You are demon-possessed." But others in the crowd said the opposite; they said "He is the Messiah." That is the king sent by God to rescue. Who was right? Who is Jesus?

The Jewish leaders thought they knew better than anyone. The Jewish leaders thought that Jesus was not from God and he must be stopped. He had broken their laws and was even saying he was God's Son. This man must die, they thought. Right from the beginning of the festival they were looking for a way to kill Jesus! They thought they were right and the others were wrong. But what do you think? Who is Jesus?

? **Get thinking**

What do your friends, or family, or school teachers think of Jesus?

+ **Read**

John 7:12, 20, 31 and 40-41.

Who do people say Jesus is?

Look

Look at verse 32. Do the Pharisees like Jesus?

Look closer... Look at verses 48 and 49. Have the Pharisees accepted or rejected Jesus the rescuer?

Activity

Try to unjumble the following verse from John chapter 1.

came his receive to did him. that which own, his but He was own not

John 1:10



Think

Hm... What have the Pharisees got wrong?

Hmm... Why might the Pharisees be rejecting Jesus?

Hmmm... Remember: Jesus is God himself, come to bring in his new creation and rescue a new people. If the Pharisees are rejecting this, what does this tell us about what they want and don't want?



Apply

Circle who you think Jesus is?

Good man / Bad man / Demon-possessed / Prophet / Christ



Pray

Let's ask God for forgiveness for when we have rejected Jesus.

God himself has come to bring his new creation... And rescue a new people God's true people accept his Son, Jesus

In today's story, Jesus is still in the temple talking to the Jewish leaders. The Jewish leaders thought that Jesus was not from God and he must be stopped. They were looking for a way to kill him! As we carry on reading we see even more that these Jewish people, God's people in the Old Testament, have totally rejected Jesus. Their rejection of Jesus shows who they really are - they're not God's true people at all. They don't belong to his family if they hate his Son. They thought that because they were related to Abraham, they were automatically in God's kingdom. They thought that they didn't need him. They didn't think they needed a rescuer. They had failed to see that rejecting God's son meant they were not part of God's family and would not have eternal life with him.

Jesus is rejected by his own people but Jesus offers eternal life to anyone! He has come to rescue a people, a new people to live in God's new creation forever. Anyone who loves and accepts Jesus, God's Son are God's true people and belong to God's family.

? Get thinking

Think of or draw your family. What shows other people that you all belong to the same family? Maybe you all look similar or talk the same or enjoy the same hobbies?

+ Read

John 8:39-43 and 53-59.

👁 Look

Look at verse 40. What do the Jewish leaders think of Jesus?

Look closer... Look at what Jesus says in verse 42. What does God's real family think about Jesus?

Activity

Draw a green circle around the things that show someone belongs to God's family.

Love Jesus

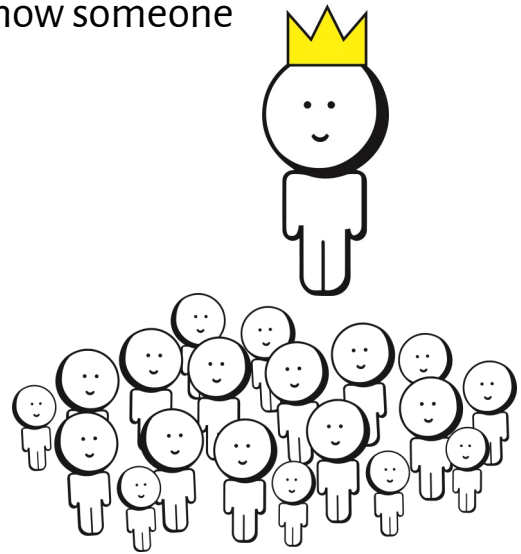
Hate Jesus

Accept Jesus

Reject Jesus

Jewish

Not Jewish



Think

Hm... What needs to happen to become part of God's true people?

Hmm... Why is it shocking that God's own people are rejecting his Son?

Hmmm... Why does everyone need Jesus' rescue, including the Jewish leaders?

Apply

Those who love and accept Jesus are part of God's family. Why is exciting to know anyone can belong to God's family?

Pray

Let's thank God that anyone who loves and accepts Jesus belongs to his family.

God himself has come to bring his new creation... And rescue a new people

Jesus opens our eyes so we see who he is

In John chapter 9 Jesus tells us that he's got some work to do. This work is very important. I wonder what it might be. To show us what work he is doing Jesus does another sign. As he was walking along he saw a man who was born blind. This man had been blind all his life. He couldn't see anything. Jesus spat on the ground, made some mud, and put it on the man's eyes. After the man went to wash in a pool he could see - his eyes were open! The Pharisees didn't like it that Jesus had opened the man's eyes because Jesus had done it on the Sabbath. They asked the man "who did this?" and who he thought Jesus was. At first he wasn't too sure, but gradually he came to realise that Jesus was God himself. Jesus hadn't just opened the man's physical eyes. Remember, this was a sign to show us something about Jesus. This shows us that Jesus opens people's spiritual eyes, so that people can understand who he really is. This is the important work that Jesus is doing right now. We are all born spiritually blind. But Jesus is opening spiritually blind eyes.

? Get thinking

Have you ever been somewhere so dark that you can't even see your hands in-front of your face?



Read

John 9:1-11

Look

Look at verse 6 and 7. What did Jesus do to the blind man?

Look closer... Look at verse 3. Why was this man blind?



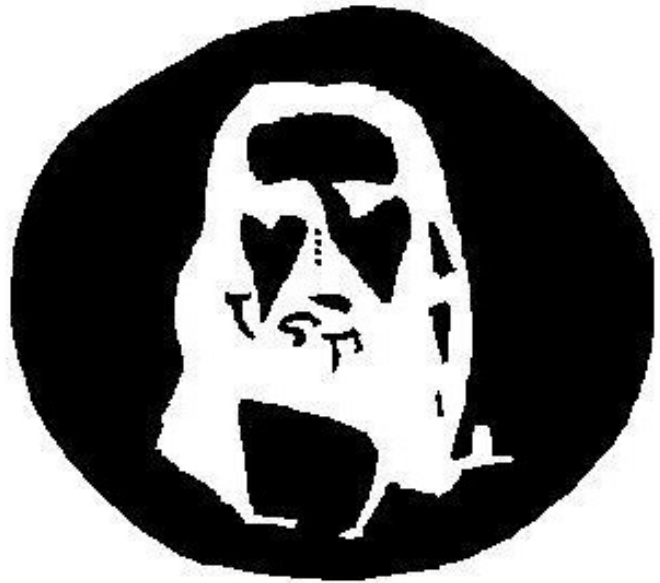
Activity

An optical illusion.

Stare at the four dots in this picture for 30 seconds...

...then, look at a wall near you and start blinking your eyes...

What do you see?



Think

Hm... Why do some people understand who Jesus is and others don't?

Hmm... What is Jesus' work? What can he do to the spiritually blind?

Hmmm... God himself has come, to bring his new creation, and rescue a new people. Why would it be so bad if we didn't understand who Jesus was?



Apply

Think about it: if you understand who Jesus is, it's because he's opened your spiritual eyes. Wow!



Pray

Let's ask God to open our friends' blind eyes

God himself has come to bring his new creation... And rescue a new people Jesus' people listen to his words

We've been hearing the amazing news in John's gospel that anyone who accepts Jesus, God's Son, is rescued to be part of his new people and to be with him in his new creation. Last time we saw that Jesus opens our blind eyes so that we can see who he really is.

In today's story, we get three pictures: the good shepherd, the gate to the sheep pen and the shepherd's sheep. Jesus says that he is the Good Shepherd who will rescue his sheep by dying for them. He loves them and won't abandon them. Jesus is not like the bad shepherds, the Jewish leaders that we've seen reject him. They don't care for God's people. Jesus also says he is the gate to the sheep pen because he's the only way to be in God's kingdom. Lastly, Jesus talks about the sheep. There will be lots of bad shepherds trying to tell the sheep lies and trick them with wrong ways to get into the kingdom. But Jesus says his sheep know his voice, they will only follow him.

? Get thinking

Imagine you're a shepherd with a flock of sheep. What would make you a good shepherd or a bad one?



Read

John 10:3-4 and 7-15

Look

Look at verses 10-11. What does the Good Shepherd do for his sheep?

Look closer... Look at verses 3-4. What do the sheep of the Good Shepherd do?



Activity

Draw a good shepherd, bad shepherd and sheep above the right description.

Listen to the Good
Shepherd's voice

Lays down his life
for the sheep

Hurts the sheep



Think

Hm... Why is Jesus such a good shepherd?

Hmm... Why do Jesus' sheep listen to his voice?

Hmmm... Why is Jesus' voice the most important thing to listen to?



Apply

How can you keep listening to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, this week?



Pray

Let's praise God for Jesus the Good Shepherd who died for us.



**St Helen's
Bishopsgate**