

# Journeying with Jesus

## Week 1: The power of the follower

### Bible story: John the Baptist

Read: Luke 3:1–22

OR

Watch on YouTube:

- 'God's story: John the Baptist' (Crossroads Kids' Club)
- 'The life of John the Baptist' (BakerBusiness1)
- 'The life of John the Baptist' (Mark Steenstra, Lego version)

#### FOR PARENTS:

Check out chapter 16 'Seeing power in the mirror' in Rachel Turner's *Parenting Children for a Life of Faith* (omnibus edition), available at [brfonline.org.uk](http://brfonline.org.uk) or anywhere good books are sold.

### Think about...

- How was John the Baptist a powerful follower of Jesus?
- Who do you know who is doing something good but needs someone to believe in them?
- What ministry needs support and is this something our family could do?

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### Key Tool 4

#### Chat and catch

- Ask God about who might need us to stand by them.
- Ask God how we can be the best follower we can be.



Scan for  
more ideas!

### Spark a conversation

Spot the sidekick – in TV programmes, movies or books. Who is the hero's sidekick, making things possible for them? What would it be like for the hero if they didn't have their sidekick?

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## Week 2: Community

### Bible story: Jesus in community

Read one or more of:

- Luke 9:57–62 (the cost of being a disciple)
- Matthew 4:18–22, 9:9–13; John 1:43–51 (disciples called)
- Matthew 17:1–13 (transfiguration)
- Matthew 14:22–36 (Jesus walks on water)
- John 6:60–71 (Peter chooses to stay)

#### FOR PARENTS:

Check out the findings of the Sticky Faith team who researched the factors which can encourage a life long faith in teens. (Spoiler alert: it's about community!)

[fulleryouthinstitute.org/stickyfaith](http://fulleryouthinstitute.org/stickyfaith)

### Think about...

- What was Jesus' community like? How did people join it?
- Where can you see the importance of Jesus' community in the gospels?
- Who is your community? Who adds to your family, bringing knowledge, help and support?

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#### Key Tool 1

#### Create windows

- Share stories of people who've walked alongside you or helped you.
- Wonder together who those people are for your kids today.



Scan for more ideas!

### Spark a conversation

Discover the story of Richard Wurmbrand, a Romanian pastor who spend years in solitary confinement. What helped him survive such isolation?

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## Week 3: Seeking God's success

### Bible story: Palm Sunday

Read one of Mark 21, Mark 11, Luke 19 or John 12

OR

Watch on YouTube:

- 'The story of Easter (the triumphal entry)' (Saddleback Kids)
- 'Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem' (JCYTT113777)

### FOR PARENTS:

Check out chapter 22 'Core of confidence' in Rachel Turner's *Parenting Children for a Life of Faith* (omnibus edition).

### Think about...

- What does your child think success looks like?
- Share stories of people you consider to have been successful. Why? Do others agree with you?
- How can Jesus' 'greatest commandment' (Matthew 22:37, 39) help us when we are thinking about success?

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### Key Tool 3

### Unwinding

Are there any views of God that you or your child may need 'unwinding' to help you believe that he loves you totally and unconditionally?



Scan for more ideas!

### Spark a conversation

Look up the story of Eric Liddell, the Olympic champion, and/or C.T. Studd, who gave up an international cricketing career to become a missionary. What did 'success' mean to them?

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## Week 4: Jesus' heart for the church

### Bible story: Jesus prays for his church

Read John 17:9–26 (be warned: not an easy read)

OR

Read it in 'The Message' translation

OR

Watch on YouTube:

- 'Jesus prays for his disciples' (Tony Ephraims)

#### FOR PARENTS:

Check out chapter 11 'Helping children engage with church' in Rachel Turner's *Parenting Children for a Life of Faith* (omnibus edition).

### Think about...

- Radical love is the sort of love Jesus showed – giving all, holding nothing back and putting others first. Where have you seen that in the church – both big and little?
- What's your experience of the Holy Spirit? How has he transformed and equipped you?

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#### Key Tool 5

### Surf the waves

- Where are you passionate about serving your church right now?
- How can you get involved in this area if you're not already?



Scan for more ideas!

### Spark a conversation

Which is your favourite biblical picture of what the church is like? For example, the body of Christ (Colossians 1:18); the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:22–30); a flock of sheep (John 10:1–18); a vine with branches (John 15:1–8); a family (John 1:12–13).

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## Week 5: When it all goes wrong

### Bible story: Jesus' last day

Read one of Matthew 26:31–27:31, Mark 14:27–15:20, Luke 22:39–23:25 or John 18:1–19:16

OR

Read 'A dark night in the garden' from *The Jesus Storybook Bible*

OR

Watch on YouTube:

- 'The Story of Jesus on Trial' (Kids on the Move)

### FOR PARENTS:

Today's theme is a challenging one. Scan the QR code below for some helpful thoughts from Becky under the 'Digging deeper' subheading.

### Think about...

- Share stories of when things have gone wrong for you. What happened? How did you feel? Where was God and what did he do?
- David gave some advice to people going through tough times in Psalm 37:1–8. Do you agree with him?

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### Key Tool 2

### Framing

How can we frame the difficult things that happen to us with God's words in the Bible? (Romans 8:28 may help, along with Psalm 37 and Revelation 21)



Scan for more ideas!

### Spark a conversation

For Christians, our life on earth is not the end. Take a look at what the apostle John wrote in Revelation 21:1–5. Many people going through tough times find that this helps them. What do you think?

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Week 6: Everyone's invited!

## Bible story: Jesus' death

Read one of Matthew 27:32–56 or Mark 15:16–41

OR

Read *The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross*

OR

Watch on YouTube:

- 'The story of Easter (Jesus' sacrifice)' (Saddleback Kids)

### FOR PARENTS:

If you're wondering how to know if your child is a Christian, scan the QR code below for Rachel Turner's thoughts (under 'Things to think about')

## Think about...

- As Jesus died, the first two people to recognise who he was were a thief and a Roman soldier. What does this tell you about who is welcome in God's kingdom?
- Read Galatians 3:28. What other categories might you want to add to Paul's list of who is included?

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## Key Tool 4

### Chat and catch

- How do you connect with God?
- Have you noticed how others connect with God? Are there any ways you'd like to try?



Scan for more ideas!

## Spark a conversation

The early church saw dramatic changes in people as they chose to become part of God's family. Think about Peter or Paul – what made the difference in their lives? What happened to change them so dramatically?

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## Week 7: Have we made our God too small?

### Bible story: Jesus' death

Read one of Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 or John 20—21

**OR**

Read the story of Jesus' resurrection from a children's Bible

**OR**

Watch on YouTube:

- 'God's wonderful surprise' (The Jesus Storybook Bible)

### FOR PARENTS:

Check out chapter 5 'Realigning wrong views of God' in Rachel Turner's *Parenting Children for a Life of Faith* (omnibus edition).

### Think about...

- We have the same commission that the disciples had. How does this help you keep a big view of God?
- Where do you see God working in the world? Would you like to partner with him in that?

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### Key Tool 3

### Unwinding

Sometimes our small view of God means it's hard to see all that he is and all that he wants for us. Ask him to show you how big his plan is and where we fit into it.



Scan for  
more ideas!

### Spark a conversation

Create a culture in your family where you expect God to do big things. For a one-minute video about this, search 'Impossible prayers' on [parentingforfaith.brf.org.uk](http://parentingforfaith.brf.org.uk).