



CLCGB NORTHERN IRELAND
PRESENTS



Bible
Blockbusters

THE TRUE STORY OF THE GREATEST LIFE
EVER LIVED! EXPLORED WITH THE HELP OF
A FEW OF YOUR FAVOURITE BLOCKBUSTER
TALES.



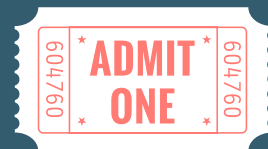
Martin's Scripture
Course

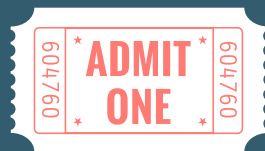


Bringing the Bible to Life at Brigade Martins Scripture Course Bible Blockbusters

Notes for the Leaders

- This material can be used as a Scripture Course for which certificates can then be ordered from Jennifer Lockhart on jd-wright@sky.com
- The Martins Scripture course is not examined with a written exam as the other sections are, each Martin who completes 4 or more weeks of the course and can say the memory verse corporately with the rest of the group is eligible to receive their Scripture Certificate.
- While there is no specific badge for the Scripture Course some leaders may wish to award the “Me and God” badge to those children who take part in 4 or more weeks of the course.
- The Martins and Y Team courses follow the same topics to assist those who lead both sections or who run both at the same time.
- Two songs and a memory verse are recommended at the start of this course which you may wish to teach the children and revisit at various stages through the 6 sessions. One of these songs “Ask, Seek, Knock” is also used in the Y Team Scripture Course for those groups who are teaching both age groups together.
- We recognize that with an age range of 3-7 there is a big difference between the understanding and development of the youngest Martins and the oldest. To help you to pitch this course at the appropriate level for your group we have included simpler “Mini Martins” and more advanced “Mega Martins” options in each session. Please choose the option which is best suited to your group. For those groups with an even mix of Martins throughout the age group we recommend using the Mini-Martins option for a few weeks and the Mega-Martins options for the remaining weeks.
- A page entitled “Leaders’ Preparation Page” has been included at the beginning of each session to aid you in your planning, this page includes a check list of materials that you will need to collect in advance and any bible passages which we recommend that you read in preparation. These readings do not need to be read out to your members.
- We recommend running this course over 6-12 weeks with one topic per week or spread over 2 weeks, however, this does not need to be 6 consecutive weeks.
- We recommend that the “Bringing it to Life” section takes no more than 5-10 minutes.
- Feel free to add your own style and to omit/add your own ideas, this material is just meant to be a help and guidance for you.
- The memory pen supplied with this resource includes handouts, songs and useful links to aid you in leading this Scripture Course.





The Big Idea

During the “Bible Blockbusters” Scripture Course the Martins will learn about 6 blockbuster bible stories, full of adventure, love and excitement! To help bring these passages to life, we will be bringing in movies with similar themes, which your members will be very familiar with! While of course these stories are no comparison to the true stories from the life of Jesus, found in the bible, we believe that relating these truths to something relevant to their world will help to bring the bible to life and will help our Martins to connect! So, make yourself comfortable, grab some popcorn and get ready for a journey through the bible, blockbuster style!!

Topics

1. Blockbuster One – Finding Nemo (Jesus gets lost at the Temple)
2. Blockbuster Two – The Lion King (The Baptism of Jesus)
3. Blockbuster Three – Avengers Assemble (Calling of the 12 Disciples)
4. Blockbuster Four – Star Wars (Jesus Tells us to be Salt and Light)
5. Blockbuster Five – Frozen (Jesus Saved Us With True Love)
6. Blockbuster Six – Beauty and The Beast (The Transformation of Saul to Paul!)

Music

You might wish to teach the Martins “This Little Light of Mine” or “Ask, Seek, Knock” as the theme song for the “Bible Blockbusters” Scripture Course. Both songs and an action video for Ask, Seek, Knock can be found in the Martins Folder of your memory pen.

“Ask, Seek Knock” is also used as part of the Y Team Scripture Course for those who may find this overlap useful.

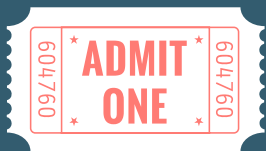
Memory Verse

The recommended memory verse for the “Bible Blockbusters” Martins Scripture Course is;

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see you good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

You might choose to teach the memory verse using the following ideas;

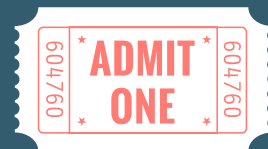
- Use the “Martins Disappearing Memory Verse” on the memory pen. Have the children say the verse using funny accents, like a character from whichever movie you have been looking at that week. For example, if it is your Frozen week then they could say it like Olaf or Sven. If you feel they have followed the instructions well, you can move on to the next slide on which some of the words are erased. Continue with this until you have no words left. Alternatively, you might have the children “Roar” (Lion King Week), Light Saber (Star Wars Week) or Ice Blast (Frozen Week) the words off the screen while you discreetly click the slides forward.

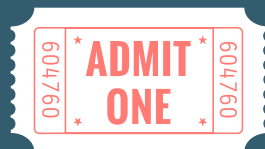




- Give each child a copy of the “Martin’s Memory Verse Colouring Sheet” from your memory pen to color in and read the verse together.
- As the round-up activity for your Scripture Course do a photo challenge. Split the children into groups, each with a leader who has a camera and give each group a set of print outs of the memory verse. These can be found on your memory pen, named “Memory Verse Print Outs.” Have them take photos recreating a scene from each of the movies they have thought about over the course. For example, for Star Wars you might have two people fighting with sticks (light sabers) or for Frozen you might have everyone pretending to shiver. In each of the scenes have them show the memory verse in the correct order. To make a full evening of this activity why not have various costumes and props available and allow them to get more creative. You might also want to show the pictures on a screen at the end so they can see the other groups photos. To make it a competition give points for each movie successfully recreated.

(For Safeguarding Trust purposes, if leaders are using their personal phones, these photos should be transferred onto a Brigade computer and deleted from the Officers phone at the end of the evening.)





Bible Blockbuster One

Finding Nemo (Jesus Gets Lost at the Temple)

Leaders' Preparation Page

The Big Idea

Just as in Finding Nemo and Finding Dory, we see children who get separated from their parents, sparking a frantic search for them, the bible records a time when Jesus, as a 12-year-old boy, gets lost! After much searching his parents find him in the temple, listening to the religious teachers. In this study, we will focus on what Jesus says when his parents find him, "Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" Right at the start of this course we hope that your Martins will grasp who Jesus is, the son of God, and that all they will learn in the coming weeks will make sense because of this amazing fact! We also hope that as the Martins think about the man Jesus would grow into from the 12-year-old boy in this story, they will consider how they can grow up to be more like him.

Foundations

To help you prepare for this session please read the following passage:

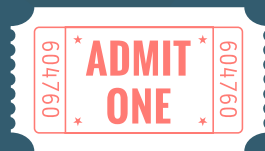
The Boy Jesus at the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him,

"Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.





Bible Blockbuster One

Finding Nemo (Jesus Gets Lost at the Temple)

Bringing it to Life

Please choose the teaching option most appropriate for your groups level:

Mini-Martins

Print the pictures of emojis found on your memory pen under “Lost Emojis” and use these to help you to describe the feelings in this story. Alternatively, you can draw your own, smiley/sad faces! You might choose to lay them out in front of you while you sit in a circle or stick them to the wall.

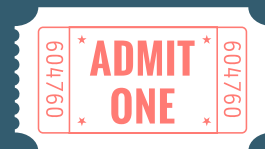
Ask the Martins how Nemo and Dory felt in the Finding Nemo and Finding Dory films when they got lost, ask them to point to the emoji which describe how they might have felt, e.g scared when they realized they were lost, happy when they were found. Ask how their parents would have felt (**Worried Emoji**). Ask the Martins if any of them have ever gotten lost, how did they feel? Encourage them to point to the emojis.

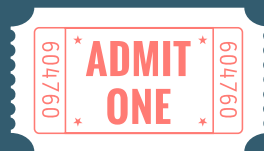
Tell the Martins that when Jesus was a boy, aged only 12, He got lost too! Jesus and His parents, Mary and Joseph, had taken a big trip with all of their family and friends to the temple in Jerusalem. The temple is like our churches, where the people went to worship God. Ask the Martins to point at the emoji which might show how Jesus would have felt going on a trip. (**Happy/Sunglasses emoji**) They had to walk a very, very long way to get there, they didn’t have cars in those days! Ask the Martins to point at the emoji that would describe how Jesus felt now? (**Sweaty emoji**). When it came time to go home His mum and dad probably thought He was with some of their other family, in fact they didn’t realise that they had left Him behind until a full days later. Ask the Martins which emoji shows how they would have felt when they realized He was missing? (**Shocked emoji**) They hurried back and searched for Him for 3 whole days, they looked everywhere but He was nowhere to be found. Ask the Martins which emoji shows how his mum and dad must have felt? (**Worried emoji**) Finally, they found in the temple! Ask which emoji shows how they would have felt? (**Happy Emoji**) But when they found Him Jesus hadn’t been scared or worried the way many of us have been when we have got lost, He had been busy learning about God. He was surprised that they hadn’t known where to look for Him and said to His mum and dad, did you not know I had to be here! This is my father’s house!

Explain to the Martins that Jesus was saying that He is the son of God and that the Bible says He was growing up to be an amazing person who would change the world!

Mega-Martins

Ask your Martins to tell you what happens in the Finding Nemo and Finding Dory movies. (They are about children who get separated from their parents, they weren’t in the place that they were supposed to be.) Tell the Martins that you are going to have a quiz about where we expect to find certain things/people. Split the Martins into quiz teams and ask questions to alternate teams, giving everyone a chance to answer.





Example Questions

- *Where did they find Nemo? (Dentists in Sydney)*
- *Where do you find a teacher (School/classroom)*
- *Where do you find a doctor (Hospital)*
- *Where do you find a minister (Church)*
- *Where do you find a cow (Farm/Field)*
- *Where do you find a fish (Seal/water)*

Tell the Martins that they need to hear a bit of the following story before they can guess the answer to the next question.

“It is a story about Jesus, when he was a boy of 12 years old. He had gone on a big trip with all of His family to the Temple in Jerusalem, the Temple was a place where they went to talk to God. When Jesus family left to go home they thought He was with another one of their family but after they had been walking for a whole day they realized they still hadn’t seen Him so they went looking for Him! No one had seen Him! They had left Him behind! Mary and Joseph hurried back to Jerusalem and started searching for Jesus. After looking everywhere for 3 whole days they found Him.”

Give the teams a few chances to guess where they found Him.

“They found Jesus in the Temple, asking questions and learning about God, He wasn’t scared or worried about being left behind. In fact, He was surprised His mum and dad had had to look so hard for Him. Jesus thought they would know to find Him in the Temple, in the same way we know to find a doctor in a hospital or a teacher in a school. He thought they would have known this because He is God’s son and the Temple is God’s house. He said to Mary and Joseph, did you not know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

Explain to the Martins that Jesus was God’s very own son and that the bible says He was growing up to be an amazing person who would change the world!

The Fun Part

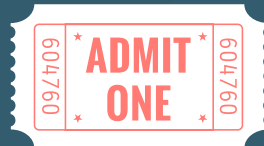
(Choose whichever combination of crafts, games and music that suits the time and resources you have available)

Craft

Mini-Martins

Hank the Octopus

- Print onto card and cut out a copy for each child of “Hank the Octopus” from your memory pen.
- Let the Martins colour in hank (you can glue on two googly eyes if you like)
- Cut up some strips of tissue paper and let the martins stick these to the bottom of the octopus as its tentacles.





Mega-Martins

Envelope Puppets

Your Martins can make these simple envelope puppets by:

- Sealing shut a standard rectangular envelope and cutting it in half to give two squares.
- These squares can either be coloured with felt-tips or painted. (If you are painting this craft will need to be done over 2 weeks)
- Give the children an option of doing Dory (blue) or Nemo (Orange) or to make life easier for yourself just decide on one or the other!
- If the children chose Nemo they will need to leave a white strip across the bag (you could have this drawn on for them to avoid colouring.)
- For Dory you will need some pre-cut triangles cut out of yellow card and for Nemo some semi-circles cut out of orange card.
- The children can glue these on as fins and tails as well as 2 googly eyes.
- They can put their hand inside the envelope to use as a puppet!



In my Father's House

Explain to the Martins that In this story we see Jesus feeling very happy and at home in His "Father's House" the Temple, He loved being here and hadn't wanted to leave.

- Give each child a piece of card or the worksheet from your memory pen entitled "My happy place".
- Give them some lolly-pop sticks glued together in the shape shown in the picture and let them colour them in and glue them onto their page.
- Inside the "house" ask them to draw all the things and people which would make this their perfect house, a place they would never want to leave.
- (You might also want to give them some old magazines which they can cut pictures out of to stick on.)

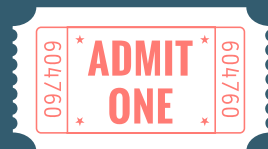
My Happy Place

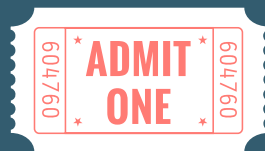


Jesus said, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"
Luke 2:19

Games

Mini-Martins





Find Your Family

This game is like snap on a bigger level. If you have snap cards you can use these or print and cut out the cards on your memory pen entitled “Find Your Family”. Give each child a card, ensuring that at least one match to each card is also given out. Have them run around the room like “Nemo on an adventure” or “Dory bouncing on some jelly fish” or “A shark looking for dinner” or “Daddy Marlin looking for Nemo”. Once they are well mixed up tell them it is a race to find their card match. If they have a baby turtle then they are looking for a mummy/daddy turtle. If they have a baby clown fish they are looking for an adult clown fish etc. Once they find their pair they should sit down together. If you have more than 8 Martins and leaders then you can give out multiple cards so that they have to find their whole family rather than just their parent/child.

Find the Hidden Animals

If you have printed the “Find Your Family Cards” for the previous game you can also use these for a treasure hunt. Hide them around the hall and have the children search for them and race to bring them back to you. You might wish to give them some clues about where to find them before they set off. Or to put them into teams and time which team can find them all quickest.

Mega-Martins

Lost Children Treasure Hunt

On separate pieces of paper write the letters of the names;

JESUS

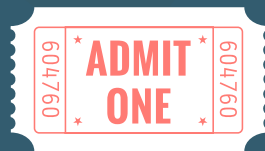
DORY

NEMO

Write each of the names in different coloured pens and hid the pages around the hall. Explain to the Martins that you are going to search for children who have got separated from their parents. Have the Martins run around and try to find the letters. When they bring them back they must find others with letters of the same colour. Have a leader work with each coloured group to help them put the letters in order.

Maze worksheet

Print a copy of the Maze worksheet from your memory pen for the Martins to complete.
(Taken from Sermons4Kids.)





Wrapping it Up

At the end of the passage we are studying in this session it reads;

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."
Luke 2:52

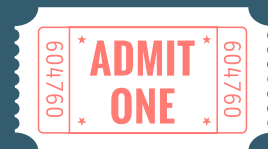
Explain to the children that in this story Jesus was only a young boy, not much older than them but that the Bible says He would continue to grow into an amazing and very special person who would change the world.

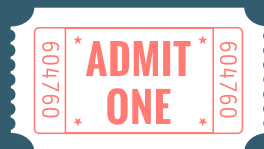
Ask the Martins to think about ways they would like to grow to become more like Jesus, for example; to be more kind, more helpful etc.

Give each Martin a block of Lego. Start of a small tower and bring it around the children in a circle inviting them to add their block. As they add they block, repeat the following sentence, giving them a chance to fill in the blank if they would like to;

"God help me to grow to be" e.g. "God help me to grow to be kind to others"

Once everyone has placed their block on the tower say a big AMEN together.





Bible Blockbuster Two

The Lion King (Jesus' Baptism)

Leaders' Preparation Page

The Big Idea

At the beginning of the Lion King we see the King, Mufasa, present his new son, Simba to the world as their future King, we see the light shine on Simba and all of the other animals bowing to him as they recognize him as the son of their King. As Jesus began His ministry the Bible records a similar moment where His true identity is revealed. When Jesus is baptised, the heavens opened and a voice from heaven says “This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.” This was in affect, Jesus coronation, his big debut, the moment when God let the world know that this was His son. In the movie world, it could be the trailer, hinting at all of the amazing signs, wonders and ministry that we were yet to see from Jesus.

If we have asked Jesus into our life and become a part of God’s family then the Bible says that we have also become His sons and daughters and so when God says of Jesus “This is my Son, whom I love, with Him I am well pleased” this has also become our identity and how He sees us. We pray that through this session the Martins’ will grasp that this is an identity which is available to them, if they would like to become a part of God’s family!

Foundations

To help you prepare for this session please read the following passage.

The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17)

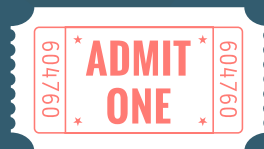
Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.”

Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said,

“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”





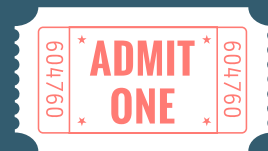
Bible Blockbuster Two The Lion King (Jesus' Baptism)

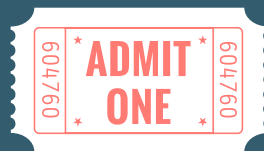
Bringing it to Life

Show the Martins this picture and ask if they know what is going on in it. (Simba is being presented as the new son of the King)



This picture is also available on your memory pen under “Lion King” if you would like to print it bigger. Tell them that there was a similar moment which happened for Jesus as he started his work on earth, when God made sure everybody knew this was His son and that we could expect big things from Him!! Jesus went to the river Jordan to be baptized by a man called John. Baptism is something which the Bible says we should do if we follow God, Someone puts us under the water for a second and brings us back up to show we have washed away our old life and have started a new one with God. If you have a sample made of one of the crafts you could use this to





help you illustrate what you mean by baptism. Tell the Martins that, when Jesus came up out of the water something amazing happened!! A very bright light shone down and a dove came down from heaven. A big voice said “This is my son, I love him and I’m very pleased with him”. Everyone who was watching was amazed and knew that this was God’s son!

If you have the facilities to do so, show the first 1 minute 20 seconds of the Max7 video found on your memory pen.

Mini-Martins

Ask the Martins if they can remember what God said about Jesus when he came up from the water. Ask them if they can guess what He would say about us if we heard His voice? Allow a few guesses. Tell them that if we are following Him, He would say the same thing because He says we are His children just like Jesus and He loves us!

Mega-Martins

Ask the Martins to close their eyes, try to create a quiet and reflective moment. Ask the Martins to imagine being there and hearing a voice from heaven saying. “This is my son, I love Him and I’m very pleased with Him”. Ask them to imagine what God would say about them if they could hear his voice. Tell them that if they are following him he would say the same thing because we are his children, just like Jesus!

Craft

Mini-Martins Baptism Plate

- Give each Martin a paper plate and a copy of the “Mini-Martin’s Jesus’ Baptism” from your memory pen. Cut out the picture for them, cutting out Jesus separately.
- Have them colour in John the Baptist and Jesus and stick Jesus to a lolly pop stick
- The Martins can stick their picture onto the plate and then add a square of tracing paper which you can help them to glue on at the sides.
- They can then insert Jesus “into the water” and move him backwards and forwards as if he is being baptized.



As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”
Matthew 3:16-17

Lion King Colouring Sheet

You can find a “Lion King Colouring Sheet” on your memory pen.





Crowns

Make some crowns to celebrate Jesus' coronation as King! Some Pound Shops/The Play Resource Centre Belfast and online craft shops will sell cardboard crowns which your group can decorate with stickers and gems.



Mega Martins Jesus' Baptism Cup

- Cut a small slit in the bottom of a paper cup.
- Give each child a lollypop stick and ask them to colour it in yellow or orange.
- Give each child a paper cup and a copy of one picture, dove and cloud from the "Jesus Baptism" template on your memory pen.
- Once they colour in the picture, help them to stick it around their cup.
- They can then glue their cloud and dove to a lollypop stick and put it through the slit in the bottom of the cup so that the cloud and dove can be raised up and down.



Pasta Lion

- Give each child a paper plate and ask them to draw a lion face in the middle.
- Give them googly eyes to add and spaghetti as whiskers.
- Around the edge of the plate they can stick pasta shapes (bows or spirals work best) as the lion's mane.
- The pasta can be coloured in with red/orange/yellow or brown felt tips to give different colours in the mane

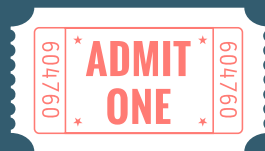


Games

Mini-Martins Can't Cross The River Jordan

Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan so this is a great opportunity to put a twist on the classic "Can't Cross the Red Sea" game.





The children stand on one side of the hall and must get to the other side (Across the River Jordan). However, there is a leader in the middle waiting to catch them unless they meet their requirements. The leader calls out “You can’t cross the River Jordan unless...” and only those children who meet this requirement will be able to cross without being chased. Once these children have crossed, the rest must try to get across without being caught.

Example Requirements;

“Unless you can walk across like a lion/monkey/hyena.”

“Unless you are wearing trainers/the colour yellow/are in P2”

Sleeping Lions

You definitely don’t want to wake a sleeping lion!

Have all of the children lie on the floor as “Sleeping Lions” have 2 or 3 leaders waking around as “Hyenas” trying to wake the lions up and make them laugh. It is up to the Lions to stay asleep (not to move or laugh). If they move then they are out and must join the “Hyenas”. The last lion “sleeping” is the winner.

(Don’t allow any physical contact as once the Martins start to become “Hyenas” this could become a little overwhelming for the children lying on the floor.)

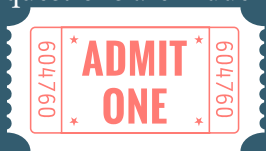
Mega martins Big Bugs Quiz

Timon and Pumba love to eat bugs in the Lion King! For this quiz, you will need to print off the “Big Bugs Quiz” from your memory pen and cut these out. Write the following questions onto the back of the bugs;

1. What type of animal is Simba (Lion)
2. What noise do lions make?
3. What type of animal looks out for Simba and is the King’s assistant (Bird)
4. What is Simba’s dad’s name in the lion king? (Mufasa)
5. What is the name of Simba’s evil uncle? (Scar)
6. What type of animals are Scars sidekicks? (Hyenas)
7. What type of animal holds Simba up when he is being presented as the new King? (Monkey)
8. What noise does a monkey make?
9. Who are Simbas friends after he runs away? (Timon and Pumba)
10. What do Timon and Pumba eat? (Bugs)
11. Who baptized Jesus? (John the Baptist)
12. What did Jesus go down under when he was baptized? (Water)
13. What did people see when Jesus was baptized? (The skies opened and a dove came down.)
14. What did people hear when Jesus was baptized? (A voice from heaven)
15. What did the voice from heaven say? (It said that Jesus was God’s son.)

(You may need more questions if you have a larger group to allow everyone to have a go, these questions could relate to other activities your group has been doing.)

Alternatively, you can draw some bugs on card and write some questions on them yourself. Stick the bugs onto a board/wall so that the questions are hidden.





Put the children into two teams and let children from each team come up and choose a bug for their team. Read the question on the bug to the child's team and see if they can work together to answer it, winning a point for their team. Continue until there are no bugs left and crown a winner!

Wrapping it Up

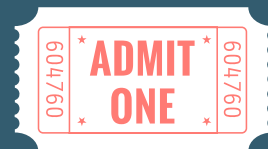
Print some copies of the "Lion Paws Prayers" template from your memory pen.
(Adapted from Connor Diocese All Aboard Resource)

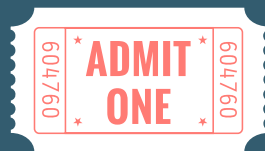
Cut out a paw print for each child and encourage them to write/draw who God says they are. Some examples to prompt them might be:



God says I am:
Loved

God says I am:
Special





Bible Blockbuster Three Avengers Assemble (Calling of the 12 Disciples) Leaders' Preparation Page

The Big Idea

In the Avengers Assemble movie, we see a bunch of very different super heroes coming together for a common purpose. None of them are perfect and none of them can do everything required to save the world from Thanos. However, they each have a very important role to play. Jesus disciples were also an eclectic bunch from different backgrounds and with different personalities. The 12 disciples were not perfect people but they had a common purpose, they loved and wanted to follow Jesus. Jesus is not looking for perfect people, he can work through each of us, all He asks is that we follow Him and put Him first. Through this session we hope that the Martins will understand that they don't have to be perfect to be a follower of Jesus but that God wants us to be a part of His team and has a special role for each of us to play in His Kingdom.

Foundations

To help you prepare for this session please read the following passages.

The First Disciples (Luke 5:1-11)

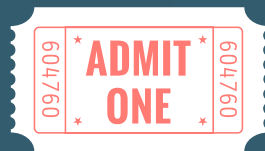
One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

"Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again."

And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking. When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man." For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.





Jesus Calls Levi (Matthew) (Luke 7:27)

Later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him.

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael (John 1:43-50)

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him,

"We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

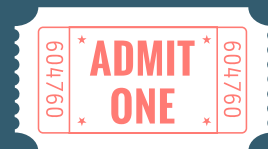
Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.'"

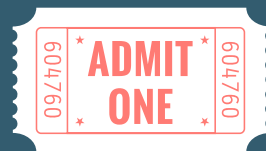
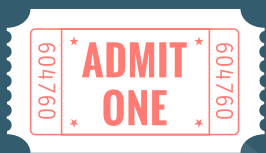
Jesus Calls Twelve Followers and Sends Them Out (Matthew 10:1-4)

Jesus called His twelve followers to Him. He gave them power to put out demons and to heal all kinds of sickness and disease. These are the names of the twelve followers. There were Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John who were the sons of Zebedee. There were Philip and Bartholomew and Thomas. There was Matthew, the man who gathered taxes. There were James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus, and Simon the Canaanite. There was Judas Iscariot who handed Jesus over to be killed.

Leader's Check List

- For the "Fishing Net" Craft you will need to collect net fruit bags.
- For the "Disciples egg box" craft you will need to collect 12-egg egg boxes.





Bringing it to Life

Mini-Martins

Ask the Martins about their favorite super heroes, what are their names/what are their super powers. Tell them that the Avengers are a group of super heroes who work together to make the most of each heroes strengths.

Explain to the Martins that Jesus also had a group of 12 friends who all had different skills, none of them were perfect but they worked together for God's Kingdom. When Jesus asked a few of them to follow Him, He found them out fishing because they were fishermen. He said to them, "Follow Me, I will make you fishers of men" which means they would help to bring people into God's team or family.

Play a game of "Follow the Leader" with the leader pretending to be Jesus calling the disciples, as they walk around inviting children to join the line saying;

"Sarah, Follow Me, I will make you a fisher of men", "Jack, Follow Me, I will make you a fisher of men"

Children should wait until their name is called and then join the line, following the leader and acting as he/she does.

Walk your group into a circle and have them sit down, still copying you as they cross their legs and arms etc.

Tell the Martins that Jesus wants us to be in his team or family, just like he wanted the disciples to be, we don't have to be perfect, he has a place for all of us and a special job for us to do.

Mega-Martins

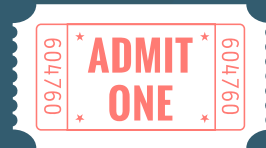
Challenge the Martins to name as many Avengers as possible. Write them down on a piece of paper/card while they call them out. You can show them a picture from the internet to help. A picture called "Avengers Assemble" can also be found on your memory pen.

(Hulk, Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, Black Widow, Hawkeye, War Machine, Falcon, Spiderman, Ant-man, Nebula, Rocket Raccoon.)

Remind the Martins that the Avengers are a team who are all different but work together. Now tell the Martins that Jesus had a team of followers who were also all different but worked together for God's Kingdom. They were called the 12 disciples. When Jesus asked some of them to follow Him, He said "I will make you fishers of men" because they were fishermen but now they would be bringing people into God's team.

Set up a tub/ bucket/paddling pool with the laminated fish from your folder in it. (You will need to cut these out) On the front of the fish are the names of the disciples. On the back of the fish write the names of the children in your group in a waterproof pen. Put the fish into the water. If you have more than 12 children you can write multiple names on each fish.

Give each child a go at fishing out a "fish" either with a fishing net (you can get these in most pound shops) or a sieve/colander. If you have a large group you may just need to choose several volunteers.





Help the Martins to read the names explaining that these are the names of the people Jesus wanted/wants in His team, the 12 disciples and all of us. He has a special job for each of us to do. Jesus called them to follow Him and He wants us to follow Him too.

Crafts

Mini-Martins

"I am Groot"

- Print a copy of the "I Am Groot" worksheet from your memory pen for each child.
- Give them lots of little pieces of brown tissue paper/ paper to stick on inside the outline.
- They can also stick some green tissue paper at the top of "Groot" as leaves, 2 poms poms onto his headphones and give him 2 googly eyes.



Disciples Finger Puppets

- Print and cut out the "Disciples Finger Puppets" from your memory pen.
- Cut out the circles for children to put their fingers through.
- The Martins can now colour these in.

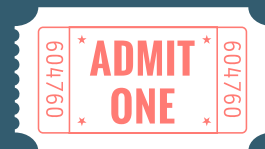


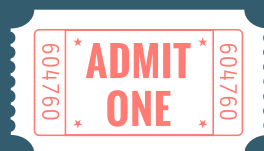
Mega-Martins

Fishing Net Craft

- Give each child a "Fishing net craft" worksheet from your memory pen or a piece of blue card.
- Give each child a piece of "fruit bag net" to stick to their card
- They can then add fish stickers or fish cut out of card to their picture.

"Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19





Egg Box Disciples

- Give each Martin a 12-egg egg-box, some stickers and felt tips to decorate it. You might also wish to give them a memory verse to stick on into the lid.
- Print a “12 Disciples” worksheet for each child and let them colour it in and cut out the disciples. (For groups with more mini-martins you might need to cut these out in advance)
- The Martins can then stick the disciples into the shells inside the box.



Games

Mini-Martins

Fishers of Men Relay Race

Put the Martins into two teams and give each team a fishing net (or a bin bag!).

On some blue material at the one end of the hall place some fish which you have cut out of card. You could also use balloons and draw fish on them with a marker.

One child at a time from each team must race to the fish and bring one back to their team, putting it into the bin bag.

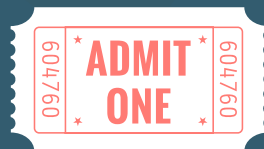
Let the children continue racing until all of the fish have been “caught” and then count how many each team has in their net.

(If you are doing the Wrapping it Up Prayer activity you can print the “Disciple Fish” from your memory pen and use them both for this game and the prayer activity.)

Seat Swaps

Have the children sit in a circle on chairs. Remind them that just as the disciples were all different, we are all different too and this is a good thing, God made us all special. This game helps us to realise how we are special.

One child takes a turn at standing in the middle and makes a statement such as “I have brown hair” or “My favorite colour is green”. Those children who also have brown hair or whose favorite colour is green must get up and swap seats. Choose another child for the middle and start again. We suggest not putting children out but just using this as an exercise to think about who God has made us!





Mega Martins Disciples Names Relay

- This game will help your Martins to learn the names of some of the disciples.
- Split the group into two teams each with 12 cups. The cups should each have the name of one of the 12 disciples written on their rim.
- The Martins must race to the other end of the hall and stack their cups one at a time.
- The first team whose cups are all stacked and are back sitting in their row are the winners.
- Bring the stacks of cups down to the Martins and have them gather around to read the names together



Mega Martins Infinity Stone Parachute

If your company has a parachute, have your group sit on the group around it, each holding a handle. Choose one child to be an Avenger and another to be an infinity stone which the Avengers are trying to find.

The “Infinity Stone” goes under the parachute and crawls around.

The “Avenger” must crawl around on top of the parachute (with their shoes off) trying to catch the “Infinity Stone” by tapping them (not jumping on top of them!!).

Once they are caught they come out and another two children take their turn. The rest of the children are the “bad guys” they try to make it harder for the Avenger to find the “Infinity Stone” by shaking the parachute so it’s hard to see the child crawling around underneath,

Wrapping it Up

Fish Prayers

Print a copy of the “Disciples Fish” from your memory pen and string those with names on them onto a piece of string which can be hung across the hall or a notice board.

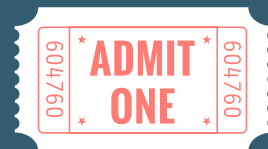
Encourage the children to decorate a blank fish and then write their name on it to symbolize that they are part of God’s team like the Avengers and that they also have a special role to play in his kingdom as “fishers of men”. Add the Martins fish to the string and display it somewhere they can see it.

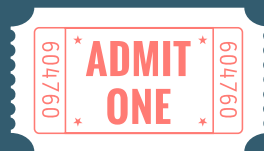


Finish with the following prayer:

Thank you God that you made us special and that you love us just the way we are. Thank you that we can be a part of your team, just like the disciples. Help us to do the special jobs which you have for us as best we can.

Amen.





Bible Blockbuster Four Star Wars (Jesus tells us to be Salt and Light) Leaders' Preparation Page

The Big Idea

In the Star Wars movies every character finds themselves on the Dark Side or in the Light, they must choose which way to go and how they live their lives and treat others is drastically impacted by this decision. During Jesus Sermon on the Mount He told His followers that they are the light of the world. We hope that through this session your members will begin to understand what it means to be a light for Jesus in their world and that they will be encouraged to live their lives to shine for Him.

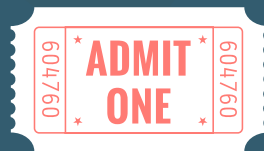
Foundations

To help you prepare for this session please read the following passage.

Jesus Teaching about Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-15)

“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”





Bible Blockbuster Four Star Wars (Jesus tells us to be Salt and Light)

Bringing it to Life

Mini-Martins

Ask the Martins if they have heard of Star Wars? Do they know what side the good people and bad people are on? Explain that in Star Wars the good guys are on the light side and the bad guys are on the dark side.

As we are thinking about light play the “Don’t hide your light” game described in the games section of this session.

Ask your Martins the following questions;

Was it hard to hide the light?

Why was it hard to hid the light?

Explain to your Martins that light isn’t meant to be hidden, it’s a good thing and we should let it shine.

Tell them that Jesus gave a very important talk when He was on earth and He said it is important for us not to hide our light. What that means is that we should tell other people the things that we know about Him and show His love to other people by being kind and helpful to them.

Ask your Martins if they can think of any ways that they could let their light shine this week? Challenge them to do this and say that you will be checking how they got on next week! (Try to remember to set aside some time to discuss how they got on at the beginning of your next session.)

Mega Martins

Dim the lights/turn them off and have a few leaders holding torches. (iphone torches are perfect)

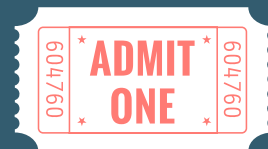
Ask the Martins if they have heard of Star Wars? Do they know what side the good people and bad people are on? Explain that in Star Wars the good guys are on the light side and the bad guys are on the dark side.

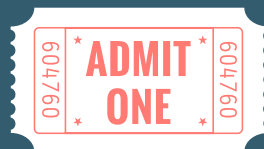
Ask them if there’s anything that makes them feel scared? If someone mentions the dark go further into this. Ask them why the dark makes us feel scared? (We can’t see anything, we might fall, we don’t know if something is hiding)

Ask what makes us feel better if we feel scared in the dark? (Turning on a light)

Ask why does light make us feel better? (We can see where we are going, we feel safer)

Tell the Martins that the Bible says, if we are following Jesus then we are lights to the world around us, we can show people the way to God and show them his love, we can help them not to feel scared or alone.





He doesn't want us to hide this light or turn it off but to share it.

At this stage move to the "Wrapping it Up" prayer activity to give the Martins a chance to respond.

Craft

Mini-Martins

Let Your Light Shine Coloring Sheet

Let the Martins colour in this colouring sheet which can be found on your memory pen under "Let Your Light Shine Colouring Sheet"

Glitter Candles

- Cut out the shapes as shown in the picture in multicolored card and give each child all 3 pieces.
- Let them glue these together and then glue a lollypop stick to the back so that it can be held up like a candle.
- Encourage the Martins to only put glue onto the flame of their candle
- Have some plates set up with gold glitter on them which the Martins can then dip their candles into.

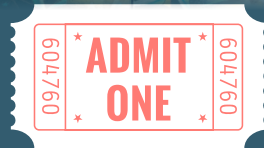


This is a nice craft to tie in with teaching the song for this Scripture Course, "This little light of mine"

Mega-Martins

Lighthouses

- Give each Martin a white paper or plastic cup
- They can wrap sections of the cup in washi tape
- If you like you can give the martins some squares cut out of black card to glue on as windows and a door. Alternatively they can draw these with pens. We also put a circle of black card at the top of our lighthouse.
- Once the lighthouse is decorated place a LED candle on top and cellotape another see through plastic cup/container on top (works best if this cup is smaller).





Chewbacca Snacks

- Give each child a cake-pop stick and let them put a marshmallow onto the end (if you can only get those with a sharp end you may wish to have these already added depending on your group!)
- Have some bowls of melted caramel or chocolate ready for the Martins to dip the marshmallows into.
- Then roll the marshmallows in bowls coco pops.
- Allow to dry on some baking paper before eating!



Games

Mini-Martins

Don't Hide Your Light

The Martins sit in a circle and one child is chosen to go to the corner of the room and look away (you will need to supervise this). The leader now chooses a child to give a switched on torch/electric tealight/phone with torch to. This child hides it as best they can and the other player is invited back. They must stand in the middle of the circle and guess who has the light. They get 3 guesses. The child who has the torch then goes out and another child hides it etc.

Dark Side/Light Side

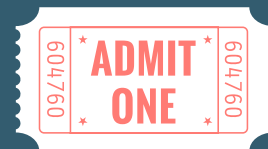
Designate one side of the hall as “The Dark Side” and one as “The Light Side” the children must run from one wall to the other as you call them out. The last child to reach the wall each time is put out. Extra instructions which must be followed to avoid being put out could include;

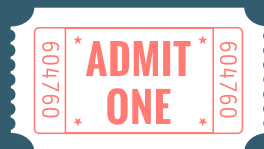
- “Light sabers” (Pretend to slash Light Saber through the air)
- “Space ships” (Run to designated wall with arms outstretched)
- “Storm Troopers” (March like a storm trooper– no running!)

Mega Martins

Light Hide and Seek

- Give some of the children in your group torches/ electric tea lights which they must keep on. As a group (taking 2 leaders with them) they must go and hide somewhere in the hall/church.





- The rest of the group must now go and find them (also with 2 leaders), keeping an eye out for their light to give them away.
- Once found swap hiding and seeking groups.
- Alternatively, the leaders could hide the lights before the game and the whole group can then go looking for them around the hall and church.

Dark Side Light Side Quiz

Designate one side of the hall as “The Light Side” and one side of the hall as “The Dark Side” and give the children a chance to answer as to whether certain characters are on the light side (good guys) or on the dark side (bad guys) by running to that side of the hall.

Examples;

- **Darth Vader (Dark Side)**
- **Mr Incredible (Light Side)**
- **Scar (Lion King) (Dark Side)**
- **Cruella De Vil (Dark Side)**
- **Spiderman (Light side)**
- **Thanos (Dark Side)**
- **Thor (Light Side)**
- **Superman (Light side)**
- **Buzz Lightyear(Light side)**
- **The Evil Queen(Dark Side)**
- **Big Bad Wolf (Dark Side)**

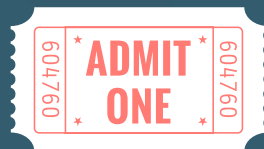
Wrapping it Up

With the Martins sitting in a circle pass around a switched-on torch or camping lamp. Remind them that a light helps us when it is dark, it helps us to see the way and not to feel scared or fall and bump our head!

As each child receives the torch the leader should say;

“God help me to be a light to.....”

As they receive the torch encourage your Martins to say the name of the person they would like to ask God to help them be a light too. (You will need to explain what this might look like, shining their light will mean being loving or helpful to another person or making them feel special.)





Bible Blockbuster Five Frozen (Jesus Saves us with True Love) Leaders' Preparation Page

The Big Idea

In the movie Frozen, we see Anna's heart get frozen, she is told that only true love will unfreeze it and save her. She assumes that this will take the form of "True loves Kiss" however in the end we see that it is her sister's sacrifice which saves her, as Elsa jumps in front of Anna to take her place as a sword is being swung towards her. The bible says "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13) and this is what Jesus did for us when he died on the cross. He sacrificed His life for us so that we could be saved from our sins and be given a new life in Him. In many ways, our sins "freeze our hearts" and the only way for our heart to be made new is through the true love which Jesus showed for us on the cross, which allows us to have a relationship with Him. In this session, we hope that the Martins will understand just how big and true the love that Jesus has for them is, so big that He was willing to sacrifice His own life to save them.

Foundations

To help you prepare for this session please read the following passages.

The Death of Jesus (Matthew 27 45-54)

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice,

"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. But the rest said,

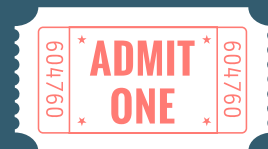
"Wait! Let's see whether Elijah comes to save him."

Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.

The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

Titus 2:14

He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.



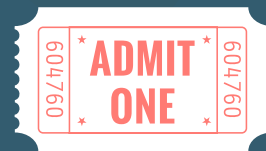


Romans 5:1-9

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.





Bible Blockbuster Five Frozen (Jesus Saves us with True Love)

Bringing it to Life

Mini-Martins

Prepare a bag/box with the following items:

- Something frozen x2 (icelolly wrapper, icecream tub, ice cube tray)
- Something heart shaped x2
- Something spiky (e.g. stem of a rose)
- Nails
- Something in the shape of the cross (could be two lolly pop sticks glued together or some pipe cleaners)
- A dice

As you bring out each item say the following words:

Bring out: Frozen Item

Say: Who can guess what our movie is today?

Bring Out: Heart Item

Say: In Frozen, Anna's heart gets frozen, she is told that only true love will melt it. She thinks this will be true love's kiss. But it is actually Anna's true love for her sister Elsa. She loves Elsa so much that she sacrifices herself to save her by jumping in front of a sword. This act of true love melts her frozen heart and saves her.

Bring Out: Frozen Item

Say: Sometimes our hearts are frozen too, by the bad things we do and the mistakes we make. They become so frozen that we can't be friends with God.

Bring Out: Heart item

Say: But God loves us so much that he sent his son Jesus into the world to sacrifice himself for us.

Bring Out: Something spiky

Say: The soldiers were very nasty to Jesus, they put a very sharp crown of thorns on his head which hurt him.

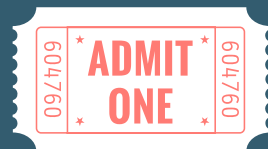
Bring Out: Nails and cross

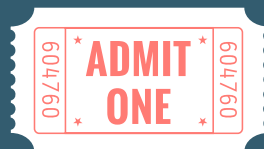
Say: And they nailed him onto a cross to die.

Bring out: Dice

Say: The soldiers rolled a dice to see who would get the highest number and win Jesus clothes.

Say: Jesus let this happen, he chose to die in our place like Anna did for Elsa. Because Jesus died for us now our hearts can be melted. We have the chance to be forgiven and become friends with God if we just say sorry and ask him into our lives.





Mega-Martins

If you have the facilities show the clip entitled “Frozen Scene” from your memory pen.

If not, describe what happens in it. (Anna’s heart is frozen, only true love will save her. When she sees Hans coming at Elsa with a sword she throws herself in front of her to save her, sacrificing herself. This act of true love melts her frozen heart and saves her.)

Ask the Martins to show you with their faces how different people would have felt in the following story: (Alternatively, give each child a piece of paper and each time you stop to ask how someone would feel the Martins can draw a happy or sad face)

“How did Anna feel about her heart being frozen?”(Shivery/cold/scared faces)

“How did Elsa feel about freezing Anna’s heart?” (Guilty/Sad faces)

“How did Elsa feel when she saw Anna had been frozen?” (Sad faces)

“How did she feel when she realized Anna’s sacrifice and act of true love had melted her Frozen hear?” (Happy faces)

“Sometimes all of us can do the wrong thing and make mistakes. How do you think that makes God feel?” (Sad faces)

“Our mistakes freeze our hearts and they freeze God out of our lives, we can’t be friends with him. How does that make God feel?” (Sad faces)

“Yes it makes him feel sad because he loves us and wants to be our friend. So He sent His son Jesus into the world and Jesus sacrificed Himself for us and died on the cross. How did that make God feel?”(Sad face)

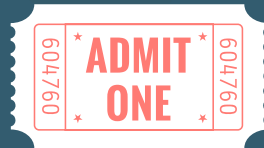
“Yes it made Him sad but He did it because He loves us so much. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for all of our mistakes so that our hearts could be melted and we could be forgiven. Now we can be friends with God again. How does that make us feel?”(Happy faces)

Craft

Mini-Martins

Jesus Died for Me Worksheet

Give each Martin a “Jesus Died for Me” worksheet from your memory pen. Encourage them to draw a picture of themselves in the frame and to join up the dots on the writing.





Snowflakes

- Stick some uncoloured or blue lollypop sticks together using glue dots or PVA glue to make a snowflake shape as shown in the photo.
- Give each child a snowflake and allow them to colour it in blue, if you are using uncoloured sticks.
- The Martins can stick some gems, buttons and glitter onto their snowflake and add a print out from your memory pen saved under “Frozen Heart badge” to the middle.



Mega Martins

Olaf Cups

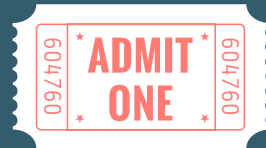
- Give each Martin two white paper cups which you have stuck together using cellotape.
- Give them 2 googly eyes and a triangle of orange card to stick on as eyes and a nose.
- They can draw on Olaf’s buttons and mouth using felt-tips.
- Pipe-cleaners can be stuck through the cup at the top and sides to form arms and hair.
- Push one pipe cleaner right through from one side to the other for arms and make sure that those used as hair are long enough to reach the bottom of the cup so that they don’t fall through.



Mega Martins

Jesus Loves Me Ribbons

- Give each child a piece of ribbon which you have folded and glued together, leaving a loop at the top which can be used for hanging.
- Print one copy of the “Jesus Loves Me” template from your memory pen for each child and cut them out so that they each have all of the pieces.
- The Martins can then colour these in and stick them to their ribbon as shown in the picture.
- You may wish to also add glitter and gems





Games

Mini-Martins

Snowman Slam

Set up some sets of papercups as shown in the picture (You can draw snowmen faces on them if you wish.

Let the Martins line up and take turns at throwing “snowballs at the “Snowmen” to see how many they can knock down.

For your snowballs use tennis balls covered in white socks or large polystyrene balls.



Snowball Treasure Hunt

Hide lots of cotton wool balls around the church and give each Martin a little plastic bowl/ cup to run around and try to fill.

(To add a bit more excitement put them into two teams, each with a snow hut which they need collect snow for. When they fill their cup they should bring this back to their base and empty it before going off to try and fill it up again. Once all the snow is collected see which group was able to collect a bigger pile for their hut.)

Mega Martins

Snowball fight

- Fill up two bin bags with rolled up scrap paper (snowballs)
- Split the hall into two halves using chairs and split the children into two teams.
- Give them a set amount of time to have a snowball fight with the aim being to try and keep all of the snow out of their side of the hall.
- When the whistle is blown the team with the least snow on their side, wins.

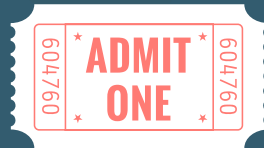
Wrapping it Up

While sitting in a circle give each child a piece of a dissolvable vitamin C tablet. Place a bowl of water in the centre of the circle.

Show the children what happens when you place a Vitamin C tablet in the water, it melts/dissolves.

Remind the children that we have learnt today about how through Jesus true love sacrifice on the cross. He can melt our hearts, which are frozen by the sin/mistakes in our lives.

Encourage the children to put their tablet in the water and watch it dissolve as a symbol of Jesus “melting their





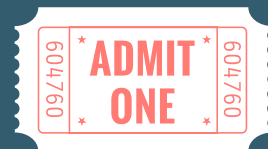
hearts/melting away their mistakes”.

Say the following prayer to close;

Dear Jesus,

We are sorry for the times our hearts are frozen with the mistakes we make, the bad things we say and do. Thank you that you love us so much that you died on the cross to melt these things away. Please melt away and forgive us for our mistakes.

**In Jesus name,
Amen.**





Bible Blockbuster Six Beauty and the Beast (Saul becomes Paul) Leaders' Preparation Page

The Big Idea

In the movie *Beauty and the Beast*, we see a beast who is angry and cruel, who hurts all those around him, however, when he finds true love, this changes him. He changes so completely that he becomes a prince with a whole new identity. When we first meet Saul he is murdering Christians and is full of hatred for them. Everything changes for Saul when he has an encounter with Jesus and he becomes a completely new person, with a new name, Paul. Now instead of killing Christians, Paul has become a follower of Jesus and gives his whole life to telling others about His love. We hope that through this session the Martins will understand that Jesus has the power to change lives and give us a new start, no-one is too bad for Him to transform and use for His Kingdom.

Foundations

To help you prepare for this session please read the following passage.

Saul's Conversion (Acts 9:1-19)

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him,

"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

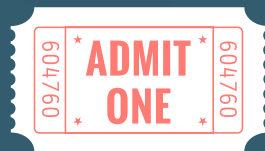
In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

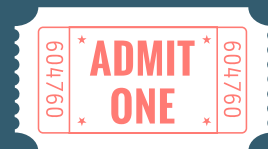
"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

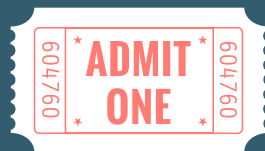
But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."





Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands-on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.





Bible Blockbuster Six Beauty and the Beast (Saul becomes Paul)

Bringing it to Life

Mini-Martins

Ask the Martins if they know what the beast in “Beauty and the Beast” changes into when he falls in love with Belle? (A prince)

Tell the Martins that today we are going to learn the true story of another person who you could say was a beast, he was very angry and mean. He was also completely changed by love but this time it was by God’s love.

Read the Martins the story of Saul’s conversion below and encourage them to listen for the following words and to do these sound effects/ actions;

Saul – “Grrrrr” shake fists
Paul – “Jesus loves you” Big smiles

“There was a man called **Saul** and he was very angry, he hated Christians and wanted to kill them all. One day **Saul** was on his way to Damascus to kill more Christians when a very bright light shone on him. He fell to the ground and covered his eyes. God’s voice spoke to **Saul** and said “**Saul**, I am Jesus. When you hurt my people you hurt me. Get up and go to the city and wait until you are told what to do.”

From that day on **Saul** was different, he would even change his name to **Paul**.

But when **Paul** stood up, he was blind, he had to be led by the hand to the city. For 3 days **Paul** waited to be told what to do. Then God sent a man called Ananias to **Paul**. When Ananias put his hands on **Paul’s** eyes, scales fell off them and he could see again! From then on **Paul** went around telling everyone about Jesus and sharing God’s love.

If God can change someone as bad as **Saul** he can change anyone.”

Mega-Martins

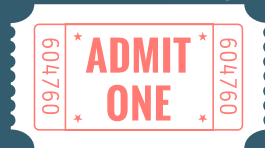
(This activity will work if your Martins are reasonably good at following instructions. If they aren’t, you may choose to get one volunteer child or leader to act this out while the rest watch.)

Have the Martins line up at one side of the hall.

Tell the Martins that the story of Beauty and the Beast is all about someone who changed directions. Ask them to walk across the hall like a beast who is very angry and scary.

Once they get to the other side tell them to change directions and face back towards you.

Something happened to the beast which made him change directions, he met a beautiful girl called Belle.





Tell the Martins to walk across the hall, gliding like a beautiful princess.

When they get to the other side tell them that because he loved Belle, the Beast changed, he became a Prince.

Tell them to walk across the hall like a brave Prince.

Tell the Martins that there is also a story in the Bible, which really happened, about a man who changed directions. His name was Saul. Saul was very angry and he hated Christians, all he wanted to do was kill them.

Have the Martins walk across the hall like angry Saul.

Half way across shout for them to freeze.

Produce a torch and walk along the hall shining it onto the Martins.

Tell them that when Saul was walking to a place called Damascus a very bright light shone on him, he fell to the ground and covered his eyes.

Tell the group to pretend to be Saul.

“Saul heard a voice saying:

“Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

“The voice was God speaking to him. From that point on Saul’s life was different, he changed.”

Get the Martins to stand up and change direction.

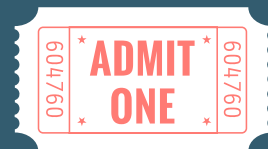
“When he stood up he realized that he was blind.”

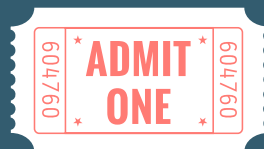
Ask them to walk to the other side of the hall as if blind.

“For 3 days he waited for God to send a man called Ananias to him to help him. When Ananias arrived he put his hands on sauls eyes and scaly things fell off them! He could see!”

Tell the Martins to run across the hall like someone who is able to see again!

“From that day on Saul was a different person, he went around telling everyone about Jesus and loving people. He even changed his name to Paul! Even though Saul had been a very bad person, God was able to change him, there is no-one who is too bad for God to help and make better.”





Craft

Mini-Martins

Rose Hand Prints

To make the Beast's rose bell jar you will need to:

- Print a copy of the "Rose Bell Jar" for each child from your memory pen
- Let each Martin paint their hand red and do a hand print in the jar
- They can then do finger prints around it as falling petals.
- Have lots of hand wipes at the ready!



Saul/Paul Colouring Sheet

Give each of the Martins a copy of the Saul/Paul colouring sheet found on your memory pen.

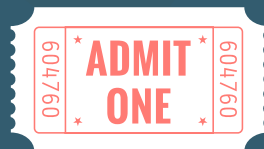
Mega Martins

Print a copy of the "Saul Sees the Light Worksheet" from your memory pen for each Martin. Let them colour it in and glue on yellow and orange tissue paper and glitter as shown in the photo.



Rose Cupcakes

- Give each Martin a cupcake/bun.
- Let them spoon or pipe some yellow/vanilla frosting with yellow food colouring added (most supermarkets will sell it already made) onto their bun.
- If you are feeling creative, cut the strawberries into rose shapes by making 4 cuts around the outside and then making 4 cuts around the inside as shown in the photos. (Alternatively the Martins will be just as happy to pop a regular strawberry on top!)





Games

Mini-Martins

Beauty and The Beast Statues

The children run around the hall and must freeze and do the following actions when you call them;

Beauty – Hand on hip, hair flick and say “Oh la la”

Beast – Snarl and roar

Gaston – Flex muscles

Lumiere – Shake hands in the air and shout “I’m on fire”

The last child to do the action each time is put out until only one child is left as winner.

Beast Tag

One child is “The beast” they must try to catch all of the rest of the children and put them in their dungeon. Set up a square of chairs as the dungeon which children must go to when caught. Other children can free them by running over and clapping their hand.

Mega-Martins

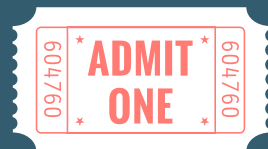
Blindfolded Race

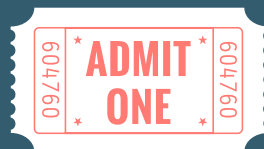
Put the children into two teams and set up a simple obstacle course for each team to complete. As each child begins the course, put a blindfold on them. A leader should take their hand and guide them through. Once the whole team have completed the course they sit down. The first team all sitting down are the winners.

Blind Boxes

Fill some boxes with mystery objects and cut a hole in the top of the box. Have a leader stationed at each box. Split the children into small teams each with a team name.

The teams should go around each box and see if they can guess what is in it, through touch alone. The leaders keep a record of which teams guessed their box correctly and at the end of the quiz announce what was in it and who got it right!





Wrapping it Up

Give each child a cupcake case.

Encourage them to draw themselves on the inside as they look if they are being unkind/doing things that they know they shouldn't.

Remind them that God is able to change us to be more like him and we want to ask him to change our hearts to be kinder and more loving.

Now tell the group to flip the cupcake case inside out and draw themselves being really kind and loving.

Say this prayer with your group, encouraging them to say "Amen" at the end if they want to make it their prayer.

God thank you that you can change anyone, no matter how bad, even someone like Saul. God please help me to be the kind and loving person that I have drawn on my bun case, help me to remember to act in this way instead of in the bad ways that I drew myself on the other side. Thank you that you are here to help me to become more like you.

Amen.

