



# VINEYARD YOUTH GUIDE 2021



# VINEYARD CANADA YOUTH GUIDE



## INTRODUCTION

We are excited to join you on the journey of deepening spiritual formation for youth across Vineyard Canada! We've created a 20 unit spiritual formation guide to enable students to know Jesus more deeply. You'll find a teaching focus for each unit to build on, a key scripture passage, questions to interact with students, living it out "risk" ideas, and an ongoing bible reading plan. Whatever size or stage your youth group is at, this guide can be adapted for your context. Our hope is to make leading youth easier for you and that using this guide will enable you to grow mature disciples of Jesus who embody kingdom living in their everyday lives!

In the Vineyard, we value everybody playing their part. Hearing from diverse people (ages, lived experience, socio-economics, ethnicity, gender, etc.) in their discipleship journey is super important. We've formatted the learning to enable many people to participate, rather than relying on you as a primary leader to do all the speaking or teaching, whether the people sharing are part of your regular youth team or not.

We also value experiential learning in the Vineyard - the old idea that things are better "caught than taught". This is both modelled by leaders but is also a way of shaping our learning through asking questions and intentionally listening to the Holy Spirit and to other people. We want to help develop youth groups that have strong relational connections beyond events. Most youth lack significant, healthy relationships outside their peers. Our church communities should foster relationships that enable dialogue and engage important questions. It's very valuable in the process to offer intergenerational wisdom from people with diverse experiences and maturity in Jesus.

Discipleship through youth ministry will not be as effective as discipleship within a student's family life. Our primary goal is to support the ongoing spiritual formation of teenagers with their parents. If you have students not from Christian homes, your investment will need to be greater and more diversified. One of the big take-aways from the [Hemorrhaging Faith Study](#) (2012) was the realization that students don't lose their faith when they head off to university, as had long been thought. Instead, research showed students who retained their faith into their adult life had a meaningful connection with at least two adults in their church (who were not biologically related to them) by grade six/eleven years of age! These adults knew them by name, knew some of their life and interests, and deliberately engaged in dialogue with them. We knew relationship matters, but the Hemorrhaging Faith Study proved it! Without relationship, a student's loss of faith begins at the start of their adolescence.



Your sacrifice and commitment to youth ministry have not gone unnoticed. This guide emerged from wanting to honour the “yes” of many serving the next generation. We know you are people who want to love students, have fun with them and effectively equip them to become mature disciples of Jesus. Our aim is to make biblical teaching more practical and accessible to this specific age group and give you excellent distinctively Vineyard theology in the content. We wonder what the Holy Spirit is going to do in and through Vineyard youth across the country that’ll have a ripple effect on our wider Vineyard family!

Below we will describe an average youth night, bi-weekly (September - June), for a total of 20 weeks. If you’d prefer to use the guide every week for 5 months, that’s doable too! Or, if your time frame for youth nights is shorter than the two hours we’ve framed, feel free to cut and paste to create a timeframe that works for your context. Remember not to be too confined by the minutes. If your group doesn’t have a sharing dynamic right away, you might want to shorten the dialogue or ministry time and slowly build toward a longer time frame. The most important thing is that you don’t “talk at” youth for long periods of time. Learning that is interactive and experiential is best.

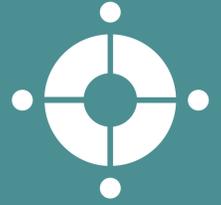
## THE OVERVIEW

(2 HOURS)

Welcome & Games	30 minutes
Introduction & Prayer	5 minutes
Story	5 minutes
Main Point	2 minutes
Scripture	8 minutes
Teaching Summary	10 minutes
Communion	5 minutes
Snack, Questions & R-I-S-K	15 minutes
Ministry Time	10 minutes
Games & Hangout	30 minutes



# DETAILED OVERVIEW



## WELCOME & GAMES

Once students arrive have a quick game or ice breaker to get them interacting and having fun. The goal is to make everyone feel welcome.

## INTRODUCTION & PRAYER

Explain what's happening tonight and what the learning emphasis is this week. Have someone pray and invite the Holy Spirit to help everyone grow.

## STORY

People often remember stories as they can identify themselves within the narrative; this provides insight into a person and often evokes emotion. Authenticity is a trait the Vineyard deeply values, which can be demonstrated by sharing our own stories of experiencing God. Most of us 'walk with a limp' and learn from each other's hardships, celebrations and ongoing transformation. Ask a student or leader to share a portion of their testimony or recent revelation of God by completing the phrase, Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., healer, constant friend, source of purpose). This exercise will build further trust among others and a safe environment for vulnerability.

Aim for 3-5 minutes as an achievable goal for sharing. Students can arrange to phone a leader or another youth before the event to practice. If you do not have a large group, invite others from your congregation to participate and strengthen relationships with the younger generation. Incorporate stories of celebrities, founders of the Vineyard movement or other youth leaders within Vineyard Canada as guests. Be sure to provide affirmation after someone shares.

Storytelling practically equips youth to share testimonies outside of the church. At the end of the story or evening, assign who will share the next unit.

## MAIN POINT

This functions as a general overview at the beginning of the unit. The 1-2 sentence summary is crafted to be easily remembered and communicated to others (parents, friends, church, etc.). The main point and scripture should be utilized together to filter information.



## SCRIPTURE

We are lifelong students of God's word as followers of Jesus. We value the Bible as essential for developing our Christian faith and a predominant way God communicates with us in the Vineyard. Reading scripture is an important way to promote experiential learning, and we love using a practice called Lectio Divina, which is Latin for "divine reading." It has been used in the Church for hundreds of years! This method of interacting with the Bible invites the Holy Spirit to illuminate the text. Smaller sections of Scripture are selected to narrow our focus and meditate deeply upon the words. Our goal is to equip youth with confidence in their scripture engagement by practicing this method each week we gather with our youth groups. Lectio is proven to help people engage with the Holy Spirit and God's word on their own for increased discipleship outside of group time!

We recommend having 3 different readers for the sections below. You can also use different translations of the bible to diversify perspectives and insights. Invite students to bring their physical bible or provide a copy. This will help familiarize youth with the Bible's structure and incorporate a more tangible way of learning.

Encourage scripture memorization of key verses between units.

**Lectio Divina follows a simple rhythm: PRAY. READ. PAUSE.**

**PRAY** - Come, Holy Spirit. Reveal to us wisdom from Your living Word. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to obey.

**1st READING** Have someone read the passage out loud.  
*(Listen for a word or phrase that catches your attention).*

**PAUSE** Have students and leaders share the word or phrase that stood out to them.  
*(Without explanation).*

**2nd READING** Have someone else read the passage out loud again, maybe a different translation.  
*(Listen for a verse that catches your attention).*

**PAUSE** Have students and leaders share the verse that stood out to them.  
*(Without explanation).*

**3rd READING** Have someone read the passage out loud one more time.  
*(Ask the Holy Spirit what He is teaching you through these words.)*

**PAUSE** Invite students and leaders to share any insights they have from this passage.



## TEACHING SUMMARY

The teaching material is a companion guide rather than a scripted curriculum to follow. These are basic, introductory lessons to Christology throughout the whole story of Scripture. Freedom and flexibility to incorporate research through personal preparation are encouraged.

- Incorporate visual aids (object lesson, art, video, whiteboard to record, etc.)
- Activities involving movement and creativity
- Include dialogue with other leaders
- Have a journal for all the students to write down their findings or draw as they listen
- Make sure to use hand movements, change voice, utilize the room to get their focus
- Ask for a recap of last week's main point or key verse
- Simplify speech to age-appropriate vocabulary and minimize "Christianese" terms



## COMMUNION

Jesus is the centre; communion helps us remember this truth. It is an important aspect of the gathering that enables youth and leaders to serve and receive from each other with humility.

Before the event, have the communion elements prepared and students selected to serve. It does not require an additional component of teaching. Select a Bible passage to read and say a prayer of thanksgiving for His sacrifice, as "we remember forward."



## SNACK

A good time for a snack would be now! It switches up the activity and creates a relaxed environment to process the teaching further as you continue the conversation in small groups.

## QUESTIONS

Repetitive questions provided throughout the units will help youth filter information through a biblical worldview. It will help them integrate Vineyard kingdom theology with their own participation in the story of God.

We hope the repetitive questions will make it simple for your team of leaders to facilitate small group discussions. Conversations do not have to be limited to these questions but will assist in taking scripture that has been heard and reflected on into knowing more about how to apply what has been learned practically.



## R-I-S-K

Faith is spelled R-I-S-K in the Vineyard. We strive to be people who only do what we see the Father doing. This can have immediate and future implications in our individual and collective lives. This section is designed to integrate teachings from the units into youths' everyday experiences.

R-I-S-K includes elements of neighbourhood missional living, remembering the poor, and justice focused on compassion, all of which is led from a posture as a servant.

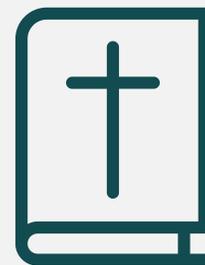
## MINISTRY TIME

An immediate application of R-I-S-K can be a response in prayer. As Vineyard people, we wait and respond to the Spirit through healing prayer, prophecy, intercession, thanksgiving, etc. Prayer demonstrates a desperate dependency on God as our source of life for all things.



## BIBLE READING PLAN

Every week we will suggest recommended reading for students and leaders until your next youth gathering. We will also offer additional resources, such as The Bible Project videos to watch or another way to engage the Bible on your own time to deepen discipleship.

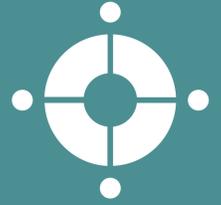


## GAMES & HANG OUT

You can assign someone on your team (or a couple of students) to plan this portion of your youth night. Games or general hanging out time is a great way to build relational connections and leave students with a feeling of fun and belonging before they head home. Music is often key to creating a fun vibe, so maybe plan for some tunes in the background!



# 20 WEEK OVERVIEW



## JESUS

### OLD TESTAMENT

- 1/ Creator
- 2/ Prophet
- 3/ God with Us
- 4/ Priest
- 5/ King
- 6/ Temple
- 7/ Redeemer

### GOSPELS

- 8/ Birth
- 9/ Disciples
- 10/ Ministry
- 11/ Teaching
- 12/ Death
- 13/ Resurrection
- 14/ Sends Us

### NEW TESTAMENT

- 15/ Church
- 16/ Spirit Empowering
- 17/ Spirit Evidence
- 18/ Growth
- 19/ Persecution
- 20/ Coming King



# JESUS AS CREATOR

01

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related about how they've experienced God in creation.

## MAIN POINT

Jesus is God and is the creator of the world.

## SCRIPTURE

"All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made." (John 1:3) ESV

*Lectio Reading: John 1:1-5*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



The Trinity (The Father, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit) are eternal (outside of time). They are holy, perfect and complete.

Out of the fullness of their love, they created the world and blessed it. God created the world with His spoken word, out of nothing. The first introduction to Jesus was at the beginning of Genesis with the creation story. Jesus didn't begin when He was born on earth.

- Jesus is God and existed before the beginning of the world.
- Humans are made in the image of the Triune God and called very good.
- Humans are unique from all of creation (i.e. language, logic, emotions, creativity).
- Humans are given authority over the entirety of the created world.
- Work and rest are an intentional part of living.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Genesis 1:26-31

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

Christ's body broken for us, and Christ's blood shed for us.

Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K *(students choose an option)*

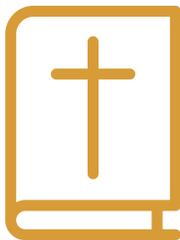
As people who worship Jesus, the Creator, how can you better steward creation? (I.e. recycling, picking up trash, thrifting instead of buying new, not wasting water, etc.)

Everyone in the room is created by God and reflects His image. During ministry time, ask God for a prophetic word of encouragement for someone. How can you affirm or encourage others throughout the week in who God created them to be?

## MINISTRY TIME *(note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.)*



## BIBLE READING PLAN *(students engage the following over the next two weeks)*



- Week 1: Read Genesis 1-11.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Genesis 1](#).
- Week 2: Read as much of the rest of Genesis as you can!  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Sabbath](#).

# JESUS AS PROPHET

02

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related to how they experienced a timely encouragement or coincidental event God orchestrated.

## MAIN POINT

Jesus is the long-awaited prophet who is greater than Moses.

## SCRIPTURE

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you..."  
Deuteronomy 18:15 (ESV)

*Lectio Reading: John 6:9-14*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



Jesus is the revelation of God, and as one who announced and taught the truth, He is the ultimate prophetic voice to the world.

Jesus and Moses have parallel events in their lives. There are several prophets in the bible, but Moses was referenced as the great prophet. He promised one would come to deliver God's people and who would speak and act on God's behalf.

- A prophet was a faithful proclaimer of God's Word and not their own. These messages were spoken, written or symbolically enacted.
- God sent prophets to call His people to repentance, which is to turn from wrongdoing to do right.
- Prophets received a direct call from God. A prophet's ministry was not inherited or passed through family lines, earned from religious performance, elected within the priesthood or rewarded for hard work.
- The role or office of the prophet is different from the gift of prophecy.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Deuteronomy 18:22
- Jeremiah 23:16
- Ezekiel 13:2
- See/use [this slideshow](#) contrasting Jesus and Moses.

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

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Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

Spend more time in silence, distraction-free. Ask God to reveal Himself to you, listen for His voice and record what comes to mind.

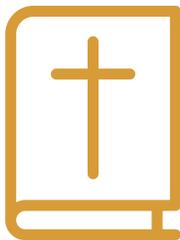
How can you bring hope into a place that seems dark?

How can you function as a voice of wisdom and listening ear to a friend?

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Exodus 1-20.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [The Prophets](#).
- Week 2: Read Exodus 21-40.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Matthew 1-13](#).

# JESUS AS GOD WITH US

03

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related to how they experienced God's presence being very close with them.

## MAIN POINT

Jesus is God in the flesh, which is the fullest reality of God with us.

## SCRIPTURE

"... my Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Exodus 33:14 (ESV)

*Lectio Reading: Exodus 33:14-19*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



God in the flesh is the fullest reality of God with us, you can't get more "with" than God become one of us, taking on our suffering and limitations!

God's presence became known in the world through demonstrations of power, including miraculous signs, supernatural occurrences and coincidental events. This was a place of intersection between heaven and earth. The Spirit would rest on selected individuals.

- A cloud of smoke, thunder and lightning descended upon the mountain when Moses received the Law, where instructions were given on how to live with God, in order to receive temporary forgiveness.
- The glory of God filled the tabernacle, which is a temporary place where God's presence dwelt on earth in order to be in relationship with humans.
- As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, God led them by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The provision of quail and manna from heaven met their daily needs for food.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Exodus 16:12-16
- Exodus 40:34-38

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

Christ's body broken for us, and Christ's blood shed for us.

Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

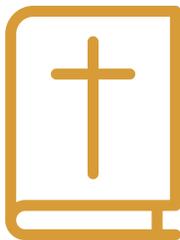
Recount with gratitude all the ways you see God operating in the world around you. How can you be an answer to prayer for someone? Ask God to give you eyes to see where He is working in the lives around you.

We should seek Jesus first rather than signs and wonders. Although we do not need to experience a sign to believe, we can still ask God to demonstrate His power. Pray for an inbreaking of God's healing to occur in someone who is sick.

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read the first half of Matthew (1-14). Watch The Bible Project's video on [Biblical Law](#).
- Week 2: Read the second half of Matthew (15-28). Watch The Bible Project's video on [Exile](#).

# JESUS AS PRIEST

04

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related to how they've experienced reconciliation in a relationship or extended forgiveness.

## MAIN POINT

Jesus is the great High Priest who mediates on behalf of humanity with God.

## SCRIPTURE

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess." Hebrews 4:14 (NIV)

*Lectio Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



Jesus followed the law perfectly, without sinning. So, he was able to come before God in right standing, representing all of humanity.

Through Jesus, we have direct access to God at all times. He tore the curtain to the Holy of Holies in two. He is our portal, our way through to the Father. God now identifies the body of believers as the temple of God, where His Holy Spirit resides.

- The law was never meant to be a permanent solution to resolve humanity's separation from God.
- The high priest was a male selected from the tribe of Levi, and from the family of Aaron (Moses' brother). They served on behalf of Israel, as mediators for humanity before God.
- Priests had to follow strict laws and purity codes in order to serve before a holy God.
- Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies to offer a sacrifice on behalf of all of Israel.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Leviticus 16:33-34
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Hebrews 7:11

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

Christ's body broken for us, and Christ's blood shed for us.

Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

Since Jesus has given us direct access to God at all times, what can you boldly approach God for in prayer?

Who can you intercede or pray on behalf of since you have the authority of Christ?

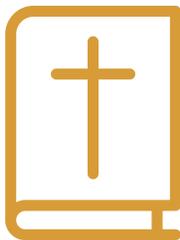
Jesus reconciles us with God and others. So, where do we need to confess our sins, seek or give forgiveness? Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in your reflection.

Where have you been living in condemnation rather than forgiveness?

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Luke 1-4.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Moses and Aaron](#).

- Week 2: Read Luke 5-8.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Jesus the Royal Priest](#).

# JESUS AS KING

05

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related to how they experienced God's in-breaking kingdom (healing, deliverance, justice, transformation, etc.).

## MAIN POINT

Jesus is King over all - ruling with perfect justice, power and authority (King of kings).

## SCRIPTURE

"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." 2 Samuel 7:16 (NIV)

*Lectio Reading: 2 Samuel 7:12-16*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



The Kingdom of God is wherever we see the rule and reign of God, his authority, being exercised.

Jesus was a descendant of Abraham from the tribe of Judah and the bloodline of David. He was different from the Ancient Eastern expectations of royalty. He came riding in on a donkey, washed his disciples' feet, invited the company of outcasts in society, wore a crown of thorns, and died a criminal's death. Meekness was His method of demonstrating the Kingdom.

- Although God was Israel's ruler, they wanted a physical leader to represent them to the surrounding nations. God granted their request but warned of future problems and destruction which would result from their decision.
- God appointed Saul as the first king, but he proved to be evil. David was chosen as His successor.
- God made a covenant with David, promising that the eternal King of Israel would come from his bloodline. This King would be the long-awaited Messiah who would bring ultimate justice and redemption to the world.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Genesis 49:8-12
- 1 Samuel 8:4-8
- Matthew 1:1-17

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

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Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
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3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

Since Jesus is our King, He has governance of our lives. What areas in your life do you need to give up and submit to His lordship?

Who is in charge of you (yourself, others or God)?

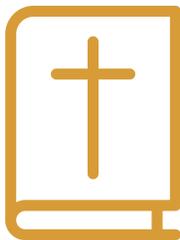
In what ways do we want to be represented or prove our strength, importance to the world... but God wants us to trust in the unseen power of Him?

How can we be promoters of peace and extend mercy?

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Luke 9-12.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [David the Priestly King](#).

- Week 2: Read Luke 13-16.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on the visual commentary of [Psalm 148](#).

# JESUS AS TEMPLE

06

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related to how they have experienced Jesus' life in their own life (in dwelling).

## MAIN POINT

Jesus is God in flesh, dwelling with people.

## SCRIPTURE

"Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'"  
John 2:19 (ESV)

*Lectio Reading: John 2:18-22*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



Jesus, God in human form, embodied, is dwelling among the people, not in the Holy of Holies.

When Jesus died (gave up his breath) the temple curtain was torn in half. It's incredible no one died when the room was now accessible! Once a year, a high priest would enter with a rope and bell attached to them (so if they died before God's holiness someone could drag them out)! The following list are different ways God's presence dwelt among Israel, before Jesus.

- The Lord spoke to Moses face-to-face as a representative for Israel in the 'Tent of Meeting.'
- The tabernacle was a mobile structure the Israelites worshipped God while in the wilderness.
- When Solomon's temple was constructed, God's presence inhabited the Holy of Holies - like in the Tabernacle. This was a stationary, permanent home for God. Zerubbabel's temple was built after part of Israel returned from exile. God's glory did not fill it like the first.
- The Holy Spirit now inhabits the bodies of believers. We are the temple of God.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Exodus 26; 33:7-11
- 1 Kings 6:12-13
- 2 Chronicles 7:1
- Psalm 118:12
- Haggai 1:14

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

Christ's body broken for us, and Christ's blood shed for us.

Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

Jesus made access to God for everyone/everywhere. How can you engage his presence differently this week?

If you've invited Jesus into your life, you are the Temple of God. How does this impact how you take care of or use your body?

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Luke 17-20.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Temple](#).
- Week 2: Read Luke 21-24.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Holiness](#).

# JESUS AS REDEEMER

07

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related to how they experienced God restore a relationship or rescue them from something.

## MAIN POINT

Jesus is the ultimate Redeemer, who paid for our sin with His life so that we could be brought back into God's family.

## SCRIPTURE

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Colossians 1:13-14 (ESV)

*Lectio Reading: Ruth 4:3-8*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



Jesus, rescued humanity as our Redeemer by paying the ultimate price - with his own life - to free us from our enemy, and the consequences of the curse on the world.

God could have started over with humanity. He decided to redeem what was already existing in His mercy, creating something new out of what was broken. God, in His knowledge of sin, still created us. Sin is destructive. The world is not as it should be; harmony between all things is broken.

- Redemption was a way of "buying back," recovering or restoring something that was lost. It could be property or people.
- The best story of this in the Old Testament is Ruth, who was redeemed by Boaz who is known as the "kinsmen redeemer". He exercised his right as a distant relative to "buy back" what had belonged to his relative Mahlon, which included his land and most importantly his wife.
- God redeemed a Moabite (a people group excluded from God) to be a part of the genealogy of Jesus and be a light to all nations.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Romans 3:22-24; 6:22; 8:1-2
- Luke 1:68
- Galatians 3:13-14
- Ephesians 1:7

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

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Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

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## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

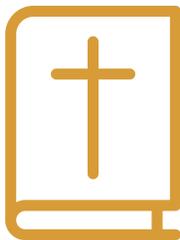
What relationships in your life are unhealthy? How can you incorporate more boundaries, seek forgiveness, address conflict or be more intentional?

What in our world is not as it should be? How can you go about bringing order or peace to it in the way of Jesus?

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read the book of Ruth.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Transgression](#).
- Week 2: Read the book of Philippians.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Son of Man](#).

# BIRTH OF JESUS

08

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related to how they experienced being adopted into God's family.

## MAIN POINT

Jesus is fully human, and fully God.

## SCRIPTURE

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)."  
Matthew 1:23 (ESV)

*Lectio Reading: Luke 2:6-18*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



Jesus is willing to be born into ANYTHING. His genealogy consists of five women (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary) who had sexual stigmas associated to their past.

There's no story He's afraid of or unwilling to touch. Nothing in our history, our past, our family, would make us excluded from being welcomed into his family. Adoption is for everyone who wants in! Jesus makes a way for us to be included in God's family because he was born!

- His birth was supernatural; the Holy Spirit came upon Mary (an angelic being didn't impregnate her).
- The announcement to welcome His royal birth was countercultural.
- Jesus needed to become a person, to stand on our behalf. He needed to be God in order to fulfill what the Law demanded.
- Jesus represents us as one of us. (He took His scarred resurrected body to heaven). So this wasn't a temporary or one-directional representation.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Matthew 1
- John 1:14
- Colossians 1:15
- Philippians 2:6-8
- Hebrews 1:3

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

Christ's body broken for us, and Christ's blood shed for us.

Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

Thinking of the different players in the birth of Jesus practice being like Mary (availability) and the shepherds (obedience). How is it hard?

Jesus birth was "upside-down" in many ways. Choose an action to live into this week that reflects the upside-down way of Jesus (love your enemies; share your stuff; don't try to look better than others, etc.)

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Isaiah 40-48.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [The Birth of Jesus](#).

- Week 2: Read Isaiah 49-55.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on the visual commentary of [John 1](#).

# DISCIPLES OF JESUS

09

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related to what following Jesus, as his disciple, has meant for them in their everyday life.

## MAIN POINT

Jesus' disciples don't just listen, they do what their Master/Teacher says.

## SCRIPTURE

"Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'" Luke 9:23 (NIV)

*Lectio Reading: Luke 9:23-27*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



Jesus chose disciples to be His living witnesses here on earth. We are all made in His image, but not all called "children of God".

Jesus wanted committed followers, not fans of His ministry. There is a deep cost to follow Jesus, but He has overcome the world. Jesus models obedience to the Father, and invites His disciples to follow him in their obedience. He gives them authority to walk it out.

- There's a big difference between being a convert and a disciple. Not all those who call on His name will be known.
- Some were there to be entertained, to receive a gift rather than devote their whole life to Jesus. Judas was a disciple who chose not to accept the cost of discipleship and betrayed Jesus.
- Jesus had more disciples than the primary 12. His followers increased from 70, 120, 500 to thousands.
- Jesus had diverse followers, including outcasts, men and women, different ages, occupations and ethnicities.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Matthew 7:21
- Mark 10:28-31
- 1 Corinthians 15:5-8

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

Christ's body broken for us, and Christ's blood shed for us.

Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

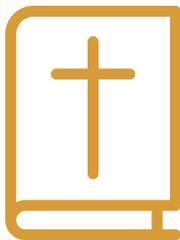
What obedience to Jesus is hardest for you right now? Practice listening to the Holy Spirit and do the thing He shows you!

Do you feel comfortable being identified as a Christian? Do your friends and family know about your faith life, youth group etc.? This week, authentically share more about your faith and findings of God with others.

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Daniel 1-6.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on the [Image of God](#).

- Week 2: Read the book of Colossians.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on the visual commentary of [Psalm 8](#).

# MINISTRY OF JESUS

10

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related to how they experienced God while participating in missions, either serving local or abroad.

## MAIN POINT

Jesus is the revelation of God.

## SCRIPTURE

"... he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free." Luke 4:18b (NIV)

*Lectio Reading: Mark 2:1-12*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



Jesus modelled how to announce the Kingdom (words and works) and then released his disciples to practice.

"Do what I do", and then he gave them feedback afterward. (This is something the Vineyard really values, that things are best caught, not just taught, by practice!) As the King Jesus exercised His authority on anything under the curse of sin. His whole ministry was about announcing and demonstrating the Kingdom of God in the world. This is the good news (*gospel*)!

- Signs accompanied Jesus' words, which helped people believe, but Jesus was clear that this should not be the premise or foundation of their faith.
- Before Jesus left his disciples for heaven, he gave them all authority and told them to wait for the Holy Spirit, who would empower them and guide them in the ministry of the Kingdom. They would never be able to do this in their own strength, but it didn't mean Jesus needed to stay with them physically.
- Healing sickness, words of knowledge, miraculous works are still a part of the commission for modern-day saints.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Matthew 4:23
- Luke 8:25
- John 12

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

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Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

God is always working. Practice listening to nudges you sense from the Holy Spirit and join in with what He's doing. Make a note in your phone or journal about what you heard, what you tried, and what happened. Ask Jesus to keep teaching and giving you opportunities to practice.

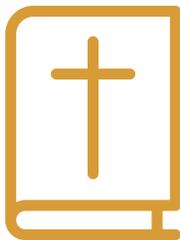
Pay attention to anyone this week who says they're not feeling well. Be bold and ask to lay your hands on them and invite Jesus to bring His authority to bear on their body.

What is one way you could embody Good News to someone in poverty?

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Ephesians 1-3.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on the [Baptism of Jesus](#).
- Week 2: Read Ephesians 4-6  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Compassion](#).



# TEACHINGS OF JESUS

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related to a breakthrough revelation of who Jesus is from a teaching, conversation, reading of scripture, camp etc.

## MAIN POINT

Jesus' teachings modelled an upside-down Kingdom, which is countercultural.

## SCRIPTURE

"The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!" Mark 1:15 (NLT)

*Lectio Reading: Matthew 22:36-40 (NLT)*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



The gospel message is more than Jesus died and rose again! Jesus revealed His kingdom through his teaching.

His method and message demonstrated the Kingdom of God. Jesus expounded on the OT Scriptures and he fulfilled them. Jesus is the King come, the long awaited Hope for the whole world! He revealed God's heart for the restoration of the whole world and how to announce his good news of the kingdom.

- His teachings were upside down (poor are rich, last are first, weak are strong).
- The crowds wondered in amazement often at his wisdom and knowledge of the Scriptures.
- All His teachings hinged on love of God and neighbour. Obedience is the fruit of actively receiving the teachings of Jesus.
- Jesus frequently used stories to communicate His teachings (i.e. parables).

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Luke 2:47
- John 7:15
- Acts 4:13

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

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Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



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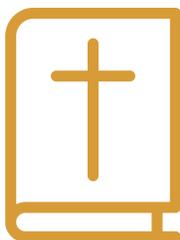
Jesus empowered his disciples to operate in His authority to "do greater things" than Him. He often equipped and sent others to go not alone. How can you invite another believer to help give courage to boldly pray and walk out in faith the teaching of Jesus and trust He will show up in power through your obedience?

Meekness and humility were the posture of Jesus exemplified in His teachings (Be-attitudes, Sermon on the Mount etc.). How can you share Jesus' teachings and be less concerned about performance? Or watch youth and church service...how do the people involve teach in word and deed?

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read John 1-5.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on the [Parables of Jesus](#).
- Week 2: Read John 6-10.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on the [Gospel of The Kingdom](#).

# DEATH OF JESUS

12

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related to unanswered prayer, a desert period of life or a time of wrestling to detect God's presence.

## MAIN POINT

Jesus's death broke the curse and paid the penalty of human sin (past, present and future).

## SCRIPTURE

"...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (ESV)

*Lectio Reading: Mark 2:1-12 (ESV)*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



Jesus needed to die in order to bring His Kingdom. The devil did not win, even when Jesus died.

Since God created our flesh and blood, He became like His creation to save and redeem us. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice (the Lamb of God) who was an offering for all of humanity (past, present and future). He ransomed us from the grip of sin. This is like making a great trade, turning the tables or tricking the enemy.

- Good and evil are not equal opposites in a battle.
- The love of God was satisfied, not His wrath.
- Jesus' pain was not exclusive to physical harm, but betrayal, denial and abandonment of his close friends and followers. Jesus repetitively told His disciples He would die, but they refused to believe Him.
- Jesus was exalted in heaven at the moment it looked like he was humiliated, defeated and weak.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Isaiah 53
- Mark 8:31-33; 9:31; 10:32-34

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

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Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K *(students choose an option)*

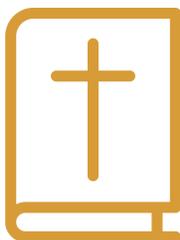
How do you publicly identify with Christ in an ongoing way? Baptism is the image of new life, we fall into death (going down into the grave) and emerge a new creation. Have you been baptized? Revisit your decision as to why you have or have not.

We don't just want Jesus as an accessory to our life, but a fully involved partner. Where do you need to ask and live out the will of the Father, rather than your personal desires? Whether it is for the first or millionth time, where is your surrender challenged?

## MINISTRY TIME *(note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.)*



## BIBLE READING PLAN *(students engage the following over the next two weeks)*



- Week 1: Read John 11-15.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Sin](#).

- Week 2: Read John 16-21.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on Sacrifice and Atonement.

# RESURRECTION OF JESUS

13

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related to experiencing God's power, witnessing a miracle or transforming an impossible situation.

## MAIN POINT

Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate act that transforms the world!

## SCRIPTURE

"For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."

Romans 6:5 (ESV)

*Lectio Reading: Romans 6:5-9 (ESV)*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



The resurrection is the greatest announcement of hope! The law was not able to bring salvation, but show a need for a saviour.

Jesus established a new covenant, one of grace. His resurrection brings about the forgiveness of sins, eternal life and adoption into the family of God. (distinguish what death did for us, and what life meant) All things will be restored and redeemed. He's done it, is doing it and will complete it. There will be no more suffering!

- He represents us as one of us. He takes our humanity into glory.
- Jesus did not get rid of his scars.
- If the resurrection is identified with permanence, what does it mean for the resurrection to permanently transform all our stories?
- "Greater than" like the math symbol < has to do with multiplication of kingdom works. You can't get "greater than" the resurrection of Jesus!
- What does the empty tomb mean for us?

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Luke 24:13-35
- John 20:25-29

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

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Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

Look for signs of resurrection throughout your day. Where do you see Good News reversing bad news (i.e. generosity, healing, freedom, prayer, fruits of the Spirit etc.)? Ask the Spirit to give you eyes to see Him working around your ordinary.

Where in your life are things not as it should be? Where do you need the Spirit to bring abundance and hope, where there is scarcity and loss or death? Look for Jesus revealing to you in a surprising way this week and tell someone from youth about it.

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Mark 1-4.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [The New Humanity](#).
- Week 2: Read Mark 5-8.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Covenants](#).

# JESUS SENDS US

14

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story related to commissioning or going somewhere in faith without all the details or plans figured out.

## MAIN POINT

When he sends, he promises his presence in the person of the Holy Spirit.

## SCRIPTURE

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

*Lectio Reading: Acts 1:6-11 (MSG)*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



Jesus modelled how to announce the Kingdom (words and works) and then released his disciples to practice.

The time between Jesus' ascension and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit was 50 days, a "Jubilee" sign from the Old Testament. He ascended on the day of the feast of the first fruits. The Holy Spirit being given was the first fruit of the resurrection!

- God is reversing the curse over creation. Although Jesus does authority over death and Satan, the world is not automatically healed or re-ordered.
- The disciples were sent to go announce the Good News everywhere. They were instructed to teach others to obey scripture and be baptized, following the example they modelled.
- The Good News is not about being a morally good person, but a follower of Christ, not of the world.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Acts 2:1-4
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-5
- 2 Peter 3:9

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

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Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

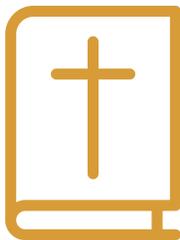
What does it mean/look like to wait for the Holy Spirit? Why can waiting be challenging for us today?

Practice waiting and listening to the Holy Spirit. Act upon what you sense, see, or hear - even if it means just sharing it with someone else.

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Mark 9-12.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [The Holy Spirit](#).
- Week 2: Read Read 13-16.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [God](#).

# CHURCH OF JESUS

15

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story about how a community or your local church has shaped your understanding of God.

## MAIN POINT

The Church exists to worship God and as a signpost to the world to know and experience the love of God.

## SCRIPTURE

"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer."

Acts 2:42 (NLT)

*Lectio Reading: Acts 2:42-47*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



The Church is the physical representation of the body of Christ, spanning time and space. Every part of the body is needed.

The Church was birthed at Pentecost! Christians are indwelt by the Spirit (the new, living temple of God). As promised, the Spirit was poured out on all believers (not just religious leaders). Five markers of the early church were: feasting, sharing communion, learning from the apostles' teachings, prayer and expansion of the Church.

- The Church is not for personal growth but to worship God and make Him known.
- We are different from other social gatherings - not just another added value system in society (art, clubs, sports, trips etc.). We are an alternative society, telling a story of the new humanity only possible because of Jesus.
- Worship gatherings on Sundays are a perpetual announcement of the resurrection and unity with the body of Christ worldwide and throughout history!

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Joel 2:28-30
- Matthew 5:13-16
- John 14:16-17
- Galatians 6:10

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

Christ's body broken for us, and Christ's blood shed for us.

Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

The focus of unity as the body of Christ is not just centred on the Sunday gathering, but also life together Monday to Saturday. How can you be more intentional doing life with other followers of Jesus, to encourage each other in your faith, and make room for non-Christians too?

We are called to do good to each other, especially the local church (as one of our primary places of belonging). Who has God given you eyes to see within your local church community or youth group that you can serve or encourage this week?

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Hebrews 1-6.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [The Royal Priesthood](#).
- Week 2: Read Hebrews 7-13.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Agape - Love](#).

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can describe a time they responded to the Spirit and saw a result that could not have been of their own doing.

## MAIN POINT

Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to empower His people to do the works of the Kingdom.

## SCRIPTURE

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

*Lectio Reading: Acts 2:14-21 (NLT)*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



We don't chase signs and wonders, we seek Jesus and the Holy Spirit reveals Him to us and through us.

The Holy Spirit is more than our conscious or inner voice. The Spirit agrees with Scripture, follows the desires of God's will rather than our heart, honours God, provides wisdom and reveals Jesus. Results are not the determining factor of the Spirit at work among us - fruit more than works. We can't do any works of the Kingdom by our own strength, but by the power of God.

- Our job is not to convince God to do something, but to discover what He is doing and join in. We don't need to beg God to do something or change His mind. We don't take credit, we don't beg God, we don't decide what happens.
- Prayer postures us to be empowered by the Spirit to participate in the mission of the Kingdom.
- There is an invitation to yield to the Spirit, but a need for cultivated daily obedience to Jesus.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Zechariah 4:6
- Acts 3:1-10; 4:13-14

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

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Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

When you invite the Holy Spirit to provide supernaturally for someone (i.e., not just out of your natural abilities or resources) how could it impact them differently?

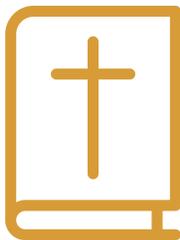
Pay attention to anyone this week who says they're not feeling well. Be bold and ask to lay your hands on them and invite Jesus to bring His authority to bear on their body.

What is one way you could embody Good News to someone in poverty?

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Acts 1-7.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on the [Visual Commentary of Proverbs 8](#).
- Week 2: Read Acts 8-14.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Shema - Listen](#).

## STORY

Find someone in your community to share a story about how they were compelled to do something by the Holy Spirit that went against what they would naturally have chosen.

## MAIN POINT

Our life in the Holy Spirit is the evidence of God at work in and through His people.

## SCRIPTURE

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." Galatians 5:25 (ESV)

*Lectio Reading: Galatians 5:23-26 (MSG)*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



Jesus modelled how to announce the Kingdom (words and works) and then released his disciples to practice.

The fruit of the Spirit is not limited to the list in Galatians. There's Spirit evidence when the church grows in any way. Fruitfulness is a result of intimacy and faithfulness to God. We are meant to overflow with the Spirit, rather than strive to accomplish God's will. We don't flourish or bear fruit without Jesus being revealed in us by the Holy Spirit.

- Gifts of the Spirit are for the encouragement of the church, not the individual. You can have more than one spiritual gift, and ask for more from God! The Church misses out when you don't bring your gifts!
- Our maturity in discipleship happens over the arc of our whole life, rather than a specific event. We become Christlike throughout our journey of faith - growing, stretching, learning, suffering and trusting. It's a lifelong transformation.
- God grows His church, we don't. We don't have to strive to make it happen.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Matthew 7:15-20
- Acts 5:12-16
- Romans 12:1-3 (MSG)

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

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Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K *(students choose an option)*

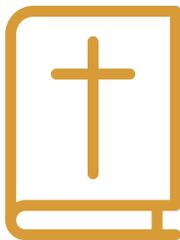
What evidence of the Holy Spirit do you see in our church community (as a youth group and whole body). Describe both the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit.

Invite the Holy Spirit to highlight one of the fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians for you to grow in. Ask God throughout the week how you can learn more about this characteristic of God and example it in your life.

## MINISTRY TIME *(note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.)*



## BIBLE READING PLAN *(students engage the following over the next two weeks)*



- Week 1: Read Galatians 1-3.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on the [Water of Life](#).
- Week 2: Read Galatians 4-6.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Justice](#).

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story of how someone came to know Jesus through your church community (i.e. a party, school, a dinner, prophetic word etc.).

## MAIN POINT

Multiplication and growth should be a normal reality of the Church.

## SCRIPTURE

"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."  
1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)

*Lectio Reading: 1 Peter 3:14-18 (NLT)*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



There is no 'magic Jesus prayer' in the bible to receive salvation.

God's mission is not just for extra special people sent to far-off people. We are all missionaries, "sent ones" into the world around us. When Paul began his missionary journeys, the only thing required from the apostles was to remember the poor. It mattered how Paul lived, not just what he did.

- Transfer growth vs. conversion growth. Are we shuffling sheep between churches or adding more to the flock?
- The goal is not to be bigger and better and do it all on our own as a local church. We are a part of a much bigger story in the history of Christianity.
- People do not become Christians through osmosis or random acts of kindness. They need to hear and see the gospel!
- The Gospel message is for everyone.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Acts 10:28
- Galatians 2:10; 3:28

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

Christ's body broken for us, and Christ's blood shed for us.

Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

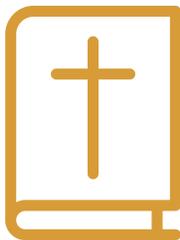
Christians were sent out from Jerusalem (your town), Judea (province) and beyond (Canada and the world). Pray for three specific things in your town, province, or nation. Find out what mission partnerships your church has and pray for the people involved.

How Paul lived mattered, not just what he did. Ask a friend who is not a Christian what they know about your faith in Jesus (what matters most to you). Invite them to youth before the end of the year.

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Acts 15-21.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Witness](#).

- Week 2: Read Acts 22-28.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on the word study [Gospel](#).

# PERSECUTION

19

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story about someone they have admired in the historic church who experienced or experienced persecution.

## MAIN POINT

Our discipleship as followers of Jesus will cost us something!

## SCRIPTURE

"In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind." 2 Corinthians 6:4 (NLT)

*Lectio Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 (NLT)*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



Jesus is the Suffering Servant. He came to bless everyone in the world, even though many would reject him.

If you do the things Jesus said, it will not be a walk in the park. Jesus is good but not safe. It will not be "if" but "when" you suffer but suffering *for* Christ is different than suffering under the brokenness and curse in the world. Persecution in the Western Church may look more like scorn, rejection, social alienation or dishonour. As Christ's followers must enter into the suffering of others.

- He didn't promise we would experience His safety, but goodness.
- We need to prioritize the mission of Jesus rather than our own personal comforts.
- Note all the things the early Church suffered as they faithfully followed Jesus. This was the proof of their faith!
- Martyrs are people who die because of their faith.
- Jesus has overcome the world, so will we in our faith. Remember He told us the world hated Him first.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- Isaiah 53
- Matthew 16:26
- Acts 8:1-4
- Revelation 6:9-11
- Watch [this video](#) where Kevin Garrett talks about being imprisoned in China.

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

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Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
2. How does this change your perspective or way of relating to Jesus?
3. Where can you imagine or see Jesus' Kingdom bringing transformation to the world? (*Give examples specific to the unit.*)



## R-I-S-K (*students choose an option*)

Have you expected that if you follow Jesus, you will be blessed or happy? Jesus' invitation is for you to pick up your cross daily, to suffer for him. How have you been willing to suffer in your following of Christ?

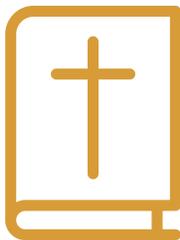
How are you engaging with the suffering of the world around you?

How are you interceding or giving to those facing persecution in the global church?

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Romans 1-7.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [The Satan and Demons](#).
- Week 2: Read Romans 8-16.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Heaven and Earth](#).

# COMING KING

20

## STORY

Find someone in your community who can share a story about how they have had hope in Jesus for their future, even while facing suffering or hardship.

## MAIN POINT

The goal is not judgment, but eternal hope in Jesus.

## SCRIPTURE

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more..."  
Revelation 21:4a (ESV)

*Lectio Reading: Revelation 21:1-7 (NLT)*

## TEACHING SUMMARY



Jesus is our ultimate hope - for past, present and future. He is our One Day! Creation will be restored, not destroyed.

We are living toward the One Day - every act of obedience leads toward our great hope. What would be missing in the One day? There would be no sickness, police, poverty, funerals, pastors! God will be dwelling with His people again. There will be no need for light.

- Jesus has won the war, but is patiently waiting to return. Only the Father knows the time when Jesus will come. Beware of false prophecies!
- As Jesus' disciples, we are able to walk in authority, exercising full possession of His power on the cross, today.
- Not everything will become bigger and better before the end times. We are living in an age of tension - a time of already, but not yet.
- God putting the world right is different from the fulfillment of our personal ambitions.

## NOTES *(materials, scripture references)*

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 2 Peter 3:10
- Revelation 5:9-10; 21:1-7, 22-26

## COMMUNION *(prayer)*

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Thanks be to God!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is something you learned or found interesting about Jesus?
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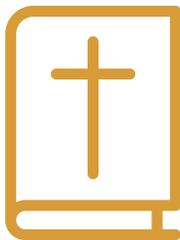
Continue to cultivate our longing for Jesus' return. Make a list of what will be no more once Jesus returns. Pray for God's Kingdom to come and inbreak in our earth.

Pray Marantha - Come, Lord Jesus.

## MINISTRY TIME (*note any prayer requests, pictures, words, highlights, etc.*)



## BIBLE READING PLAN (*students engage the following over the next two weeks*)



- Week 1: Read Genesis 1-3.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [Messiah](#).
- Week 2: Read Revelation 21-22.  
Watch The Bible Project's video on [The Tree of Life](#).