



Talk: Healing the Paralysed man

LUKE 5:17-26

Secret Agents Holiday Club

Big Idea: Jesus showed that our greatest need is to have our sins forgiven. He can do that, as God Himself.

Aim: To enable everyone to see that Jesus is better than all others, able to help us as no one else can, by forgiving sin.

Props: Powerpoint, laminated heart shape, dry wipe pens, Bible, Silhouette of a man (that heart shape can attach to)

Imagine, if you could have one wish granted. If you could have anything, what would it be? What's the one thing that would make the biggest difference to your life?

- legs that run faster? *[Pic]*
- a sister who doesn't argue with you? *[Pic]*
- not to be sick anymore? *[Pic]*
- to be better at maths? *[Pic]*

What would it be for you? Do you have any different answers? *[Take some responses if you want]*

Today, we are learning what God says would make the biggest difference to all of our lives. The one thing we all need the most. We are going to be looking in the Bible for this answer. We find out that Jesus is who we need most because we all have a problem that only He can fix. He can fix our hearts. Jesus can do it.

You might be hearing about Jesus for the first time today. Or the 107th time. Well I want to tell you that He's the greatest. He's who you need the most, and this week we are going to be learning more about Him. I hope you're excited, I sure am! And some of you might be wondering where is it we got this story? *[Holding up a Bible. Open it to Luke]* Well we got it from the Bible, from Luke's Gospel. Luke is one of 4 Gospels in the Bible which are the records of Jesus' life *[Pic]*, His death *[Pic]* and His resurrection *[Pic]*. Jesus is God's Son who came to live among us 2000 years ago. So if you or I had been around back then,

we could have seen and heard God... in person! Wow.

[Use pictures of this story from www.freebibleimages.org throughout to illustrate.]

Today, we're in Luke chapter 5. At the start of our story today, Jesus was teaching a large crowd of people. In the crowd there were lots of Pharisees and teachers of the law, they would have been the most important religious and respected people of the day. These crowds had come from every village in Galilee, and from Judea and Jerusalem, and they were all there to listen to Jesus!

We then meet a paralyzed man. This man would have been completely unable to move. He couldn't run, he couldn't jump around, he couldn't crawl. He had to completely rely on everyone else to do everything for him. How sad! We meet him and his four friends who were carrying him into the large crowd to meet Jesus. They wanted to see Jesus because they knew that He would be able to help them. Getting through the crowd was really difficult, they couldn't get as close to Jesus as they wanted to. But instead of giving up or going home, they made a hole in the roof and lowered their friend down into the room, right beside Jesus.

Everyone thought that the greatest thing Jesus could do for the paralysed man was to heal his legs so that he wasn't paralysed anymore, so that he could do things for himself again, so that he could jump around and walk.

But it's pretty obvious that Jesus thought differently. Let me read you the next bit from the Bible, v20 says: *[Text]* 'When Jesus saw their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven'.

Jesus is telling the man that...

1. *[Point]* We need our sin to be forgiven

Jesus can obviously see that this man is paralysed, he knows he can't do anything for himself. And yet, he doesn't say 'your legs are healed, but rather, 'friend, your sins are forgiven'.

Jesus is doing something much greater for this man.

I want to tell you why it's so *much greater*. For that we need to understand what 'sin' is. Sin is living

without God at the centre of our lives. To understand that, *[Show heart prop]* I want you to imagine this is my heart. I want you to imagine that each mark on my heart is a wrong thing I think or do. *[make marks on the laminated heart or write words of sins like; lying, answering back, selfish, rude]* Sin, above all, is saying to God that we don't want Him in charge of our lives, *[Draw a crown and cross it out]* we would rather live our own way. The Bible tells us that we have all done that. That's how we all prefer it, however hard we try to change it. But Jesus tells us He can fix it for us!

[Pic] It's like you living in your parents' house but never speaking to them! They gave birth to you. They have looked after and loved you since you were born. You like eating *[Pic]* their food, *[Pic]* watching their TV, *[Pic]* enjoying the books and toys they buy for you, *[Pic]* even the bed they built for you, *[Blank]* but you never once say hello, or thank you, or remember that they are there! You can imagine how that would make them feel. How angry they would be!

In just the same way, imagine what God must feel like – the creator of the whole universe, *[Pic]* the one who made each of us, *[Pic]* the one who provides us with everything we have – and yet we still want to be in charge and ignore Him. How awful. It's not OK to do that. We should be living every day with Him at the centre! Talking to Him, thanking Him, saying sorry to Him. Our whole lives should be with God in charge.

The Bible tells us that 'sin' is our biggest problem. *[Show heart prop]* And it was the paralysed man's biggest problem even though he couldn't move or do anything for himself. It's also our biggest problem, no matter all the other things we might wish for, or think that we need.

But we are hearing the most amazing news ever this morning.

(Slow) Jesus is telling the paralysed man, and he's telling us today, **that... we need our sin to be forgiven**

Next, He showed the crowd that...

2. *[Point]* Jesus can forgive our sin

Let's read from the Bible again and find out: v21

"The Pharisees and teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, *[Text]* 'Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?'"

They thought that Jesus was insulting God. The teachers of the law knew only God could forgive sins. God is the only one who can just wipe clean the sin from our hearts. But Jesus was saying that He could

forgive sin. Jesus was saying that he was God.

They didn't understand. So Jesus decided to prove it to them. He decided to show them He is God.

Let's read on:

'Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, 'Why are you thinking these things in your heart about me? *[Text]* Which do you is easier, for me to say 'your sins are forgiven' or for me to say to this man, 'get up and walk?' but I want you all to know that I, the Son of God, can forgive sins.'

Jesus knew that it is easy to say "your sins are forgiven". I can say that. Anyone can. But it's hard to prove. No one can see forgiven sins. But if you say you can heal a paralysed man, everyone can see that!

Jesus knew that the people there wouldn't believe this man's sins had been forgiven unless they could see Jesus heal the man's legs.

Let me show you what I mean. *[Show messy heart prop]* Jesus said he had God's power to forgive the man's sin. *[wipe away scribbles using a cloth, leaving the heart clean]* But no one can see a forgiven heart. *[Reveal a silhouette of a man, horizontal as if lying on a mat and fix the clean heart to the back of the silhouette]* The man's hidden heart could be seen by Jesus, because he is God and he can see everything. Jesus could see the man's clean heart. But the crowd couldn't. All they could see was the outside of the man and his legs that didn't work...

[Turning silhouette to vertical as if standing] But if Jesus fixed the man's legs, then the crowd would believe that he has already fixed the man's heart.

Let's read what happened next. "He said to the paralyzed man *[Text]* 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home'".

And *immediately* the man stood up in front of everyone." Wow. Can you imagine what that must have felt like! Incredible.

Do you see what we have learnt today? *[Return silhouette to lying down]*

When Jesus looked at this man He could see that he was paralysed, just like everyone else. But Jesus saw something else, something far more important. He saw this man's heart *[Reveal clean heart]*. He saw that his greatest need was to have his sins forgiven. And Jesus did have the power to forgive sin, *[Hide heart behind silhouette]* and he proved it *[Raise silhouette to standing]* by healing his legs.

He told them that He was God, and then He proved it to them.

Remember back to the start when we thought about what our greatest need might be. Some of us said Or But Jesus is telling us our greatest need is to have our sins forgiven.

It would be really sad to discover what the biggest problem in the world is, if no-one could fix it. But it's great to discover the person who **can** fix it.

Jesus is telling us today that He can do that for us! Jesus can take our dirty heart and make it clean because He is God!

Let's pray.



Talk: Raising the Widow's Son

LUKE 7:11-17

Secret Agents Holiday Club

Big Idea: Jesus shows himself to be God - the King of the world- by giving life.

Aim: To know that Jesus is God, the King over all; our King.

Introduction

Here is a picture of a man. *[Powerpoint picture of Tim Peake as a civilian]* He looks quite ordinary. But in fact, he has done something amazing! I can absolutely guarantee that no-one in this room has done what this man has done. This man has been into space. He is a world-famous astronaut. But he doesn't LOOK especially amazing, does he? If you met him in the street you wouldn't know straight away who he was. Perhaps you believe me when I tell you he's an astronaut. But what if you weren't sure? I'd need to prove it to you.

In the same way, how can we be sure that Jesus is God – the King of everything? Perhaps you believe me when I tell you that he is. But if you want to be sure then we need a way to prove it.

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God had promised to send a King. *[Powerpoint image of crown]* A great King who would rule over people, and care for them, forever. God's promised King would be the final King, the only King they would ever need. The King would be God himself.

And then Jesus came, saying that he was God's promised King. *But he is not what people were expecting!* He wasn't born in a palace, he didn't have a crown, or a throne or even much money and he didn't have an army. He certainly didn't look like God. If you met Jesus in the street you wouldn't know who he was. He *looked* like anyone else.

How could the people who met Jesus be sure Jesus really was God – the promised King?

Today, it's similar. Some people still aren't sure that Jesus is the King. They don't know if they can trust

him. They don't know if they should follow him and obey him. They want to be sure that Jesus is God – the promised King. We need to see if Jesus does this same things God does so that we can be sure.

Today, I want to show from our Bible story that Jesus is the right guy; he is God's final, forever, promised King. You can be sure it's him. So that you can trust and obey him.

So firstly, we see that

1. Jesus loves like God does (v11-13)

If this man *[Powerpoint picture of Tim Peake as a civilian]* really is an astronaut then what do we expect him to do? We expect him to wear a spacesuit, like this *[Powerpoint picture of Tim Peake in spacesuit]*. Here he is wearing his spacesuit. He's doing exactly what we would expect an astronaut to do.

That's what Jesus does in this story from the Bible- he does exactly what we would expect the King to do.

[using pictures of this story from www.freebibleimages.org throughout to illustrate]

Jesus went to a town called Nain with his friends, and a huge crowd were following them.

When he was near the town gate, he saw a very sad scene. A young man who had died, was being carried out. His mother and her friends were following, crying, sad.

And as we hear more, it gets even more sad. He was the only son she had. And she was a widow – that means, her husband had already died as well. She was all alone. With no way to earn any money. What would happen to her now?

When Jesus saw her, he felt so sorry for her. Jesus always cared for those who were sad. He was always so kind. Even if no one else was.

"Don't cry." He said to her.

That's exactly what God would do. The Bible tells us that God is completely loving. He is good, and kind and gentle and cares for people. He especially is kind to people who have no one else to care for them, like this widow. Jesus loves her – he does exactly what we would expect God would do.

So we have seen that Jesus loves, just like God does

Secondly, we see that

2. Jesus gives life, just like God does (v14-17)

Listen to what the Bible says happened next...
[Powerpoint pictures to match the story] "He went up to the coffin and touched it. The men who were carrying it stopped. Jesus said "Young man, I tell you, get up!" And the son sat up and began to talk."

[Text of v14-15] Did you hear that? Jesus went up to the dead man. While everyone was watching. And he touched the coffin. He spoke to the dead man! "Young man, I say to you, get up!"

That's bonkers! Now anyone can say words. I could say to a man with a broken leg at hospital "Young man, I say to you, *get up!*" And nothing would happen. But it was different for Jesus. When Jesus said these words, the dead man, actually got up! Jesus has the power, to bring someone back from the dead, just by speaking. *No one else* can do that. Ever. Only God's King has power over death. Jesus has that power so he must be God's King.

Here's Tim Peake again. [Powerpoint picture of Tim Peake in his spacesuit]. Is he REALLY an astronaut? After all, anyone could dress up in a spacesuit! I could dress up in a spacesuit but I've never been into space. Only a real astronaut can do that. Let me show you something that proves Tim Peake really is an astronaut [Play a video of Tim Peake on a space walk.]. This proves that it's true – only a real astronaut can walk in space. Now we can be absolutely sure.

It's the same when Jesus gives the dead man life. Only God could do that. No one else can make a dead person alive again. No doctor. No scientist. We can be sure that Jesus really is God's King. He has power over death. He must be the one God has sent to be my King.

Jesus is real. Even better than any superhero. Even more powerful than any other King or Queen. Even more loving than any friend. We can trust him because he has power over even death.

Jesus does things that only God can do. Yesterday we saw that he can forgive sins. Today we saw that he can give life to dead people. The only person who can do those things is God. Jesus IS God.

3. Jesus is God – the king over everything

If Jesus is God then Jesus must be the biggest and greatest King there has ever been. [Powerpoint words 'King over everything'] God is the one who rules the world the universe ... everyone and everything. He is the greatest King ever. Which means that Jesus is the greatest King ever. The King who has power over everything – even death.

[Powerpoint: Is Jesus your king?] Have you decided to trust Jesus as your King yet?

One reason we want him to be our King is so that he can forgive us. Perhaps you didn't ask Jesus to forgive your sin yesterday, because you weren't sure if you wanted him to be in charge. Today we're seen that he is really loving, and cares for people. Or maybe you weren't sure if he was powerful enough to be the King. Today we've seen that he has power over everything, even death. Jesus is exactly the King we need. Perhaps you could ask him to be your King, today.

If we agree that Jesus is the King of our lives, then we will want to obey him. To do that we need to know what he is like, so that we know how he wants us to live. So, keep listening. We have a lot more to learn about Jesus this week, and every week at church.

What a lot we have learnt today! You have done so well to listen so carefully!

We have learnt that **Jesus loves like God does and Jesus gives life like God does**. Jesus raised the widow's son to life, with just words. No one else can do that! And we saw that **Jesus is God – the King over everything**.

Let's pray to thank God for Jesus and all that we have learnt about him.

PRAY



Talk: Meeting the Lost Man

LUKE 19:1-10

Secret Agents Holiday Club

Big Idea: Jesus came to save those lost through sin. Some wrongly think they're not lost.

Aim: To see that we are lost through sin.

Needed: A smart phone, four £5 notes (you begin with 2 of them, 'Zaccheus' has the other 2 hidden in a pocket), giant labels (with writing and images on), pens, ladder, a wrapped present and a leader to be Zacchaeus.

Instructions are marked in *blue italics*

Pictures or powerpoint are marked in *orange italics*

I need technology to get me home – my phone or my car sat nav.

- *[picture to represent being lost]* I used to always get lost. Constantly in dead ends. Usually late. Sometimes missing the party completely. My friends would often ask, "Are we lost again?"
- *[hold up your smartphone]* Now, I enter "home" on my phone. It saves me from getting lost. I don't even need to know anymore where I am. I just follow where it takes me.
- Wherever I am, my phone knows where I am; it saves me from getting lost.
- Today's story – We learn that Jesus came to save the lost. We're going to see how Jesus helped Zacchaeus – he was lost, in a different way.
 - He was *lost* because he wasn't in God's family. He was away from where he belonged with God.
 - He was *saved* from being lost by being brought into God's family. He was brought home.

1. *[Text on screen]* Zacchaeus was lost.

Let's understand how Zacchaeus was "lost"

[Introduce leader to be Zacchaeus] Let's imagine this is Zacchaeus.

The decisions he had made meant that he was lost, far outside God's family.

Read v1-2

- He was wealthy because he stole money. *[Stick giant label "Stole money" with appropriate image]* Zacchaeus was a tax collector. In Jesus' day, they tax collectors took from everyone, but they would always take a little too much.
- So if his neighbour owed £5 in tax. *[Hold up one £5]*
- Zacchaeus would tell him that he owed £10. *[Hold up a second £5]*. £5 would go to pay his tax. *[Z takes £10]*. But the other £5 would go into Zacchaeus' pocket. *[Z puts £5 into his pocket]*. He stole that extra £5. He was rich and he was hated.
- He was a traitor because he worked for the enemy. *[Stick giant label "traitor" with appropriate image]* He was a Jew. But the Romans had turned up and taken over their country. The Jews hated the Romans who were now in charge of their country. Zacchaeus was working for the Romans. He had turned his back on his own people. He was a traitor and he was hated.
- He was a Chief tax collector *[Stick giant label "Chief bad man" with appropriate picture]* He wasn't just a stealing tax collector who was a traitor, he was the boss of other stealing tax collectors. He was like the worst stealing tax collector. He was doubly hated.

Zacchaeus was a thief, a traitor and he was doubly hated. He did what he wanted, to get rich, and he didn't care about God at all. That's why he was lost. He knew he wasn't in God's family.

Read v3-4

Everyone wanted to see Jesus. They always wanted to see Jesus. Zacchaeus might have been horrible but he was no different. Don't you love that Zacchaeus was too short to see Jesus, so he climbed a tree? *[Z mimes trying to see round/under/over a crowd and then climbs a ladder]*

2. *[Text on screen]* Jesus chose Zacchaeus!

Read v5-6

- Out of all the crowd, Jesus chose Zacchaeus! Jesus chose the worst person there! *[Z comes down from the ladder and disappears out of sight]*
- Jesus wanted to go back to *his* house.

Read v7

- Everyone noticed. The whole town knew Zacchaeus, and everyone had come out to see Jesus – so now everyone knew that Jesus had chosen Zacchaeus. They were really cross.
- “He’s gone to be the guest of a ‘sinner’– He’s gone with the scum. The rat. The thief. The traitor. Doesn’t Jesus know?”
- But Jesus did know everything Zacchaeus had ever done. Because Jesus knows everything that all of us have done. But he chose him anyway.

Illustration: Do you know who the worst behaved boy is in your school? Don’t tell me. Just think about him. *[Bring out Zach, pointing to him throughout this illustration]* Now imagine him 10 times worst. More unkind. More naughty. More rude. More disobedient. More lazy. More angry. Everyone in your school would know him. Every *parent* in the school would know him.

[A picture of a princess] Now imagine a Princess visits your school and the head teacher takes her to that boy, telling her what he is like. You hold your breath. What is going to happen next? He is the *only* one she talks to, for the *whole* visit. She is smiling as she talks. When they’re about to leave, when you hope it will be your turn, *[Hand Zach a small wrapped present]* she hands him a gift of a solid gold coin. Then she leaves. You and I would whisper just the same things, “Doesn’t she know what he’s done?” “How can I stop this?” “Why isn’t she talking to me?”

- Jesus knew everything about Zacchaeus. Jesus *still* chose him.
- Because Jesus loves the lost. He loves me and you. He doesn’t love what we’ve done. But he wants us home in his family. Whatever we have done.
- The crowd were angry, disappointed, jealous. They were sure that Zacchaeus was a “sinner”. We’ve learnt this week, sin is a problem that every person has, and it is our greatest need. It’s

a problem of our heart that pushes God away. We’ll all sinners. But Zacchaeus was one of the worst.

- Jesus didn’t push him away! He doesn’t push us away. He goes looking for us. Jesus chooses the lost.
- If you are a Christian today, it means you were lost, that Jesus chose you, found you, loved you and brought you home to God.
- If you are not a Christian today, it means you are lost and Jesus wants to bring you home to God. Would you like him to?

3. *[Text on screen]* Jesus brought Zacchaeus into God’s family

- Jesus went into Zacchaeus’ home. Talking. Explaining. Telling him the Good news: Jesus is God himself, he came into our world, to bring the lost home. Sins forgiven, welcoming us into God’s family.

Read v8 with Zacchaeus saying his words, ideally from memory.

- Half of all the money he has. *[Z takes out a wad of cash and splits it in half to give to leaders]*
- Remember that money that he stole? *[Z takes £5 from his pocket]*. Anything he had stolen, he gave back four times as much. *[Takes £15 more from his pocket and hands to you, the speaker]*

Read v9-10

- “Son of Abraham” is another way of saying that he “joined God’s family”
- *[Peel off the labels from Zacchaeus]* All that he did wrong has been forgiven. Forgotten. Welcomed into God’s own family. *[Give Z a hug!]*

Illustration: Imagine you get lost. *[A picture of a dark forest]* Alone. In the dark. Perhaps in a forest. Every tree looks the same. I wonder what I would shout. I wonder would I run or would I just sit down? As the minutes tick by there’s no sign of anyone. Not being able to see through the darkness. Think about how that would feel. To be really lost. Not able to help yourself [Pause] Now, think about the moment you’re found. *[A picture of a park ranger or a forestry pick-up truck]* The forest ranger who comes looking for you. He scoops you up. Puts you into his pick-up. Takes you home. To your parents. Would you ever forget that forest ranger? You know how you will feel

about him? You were lost. He found you. He saved you. He brought you home to your family. Where you belong. You would be so thankful.

- Zacchaeus was lost. Jesus loved him, found him, forgave him, saved him, then...
- Zacchaeus was so pleased to be in God's family, he gave away his money. He didn't want it anymore. Jesus has given him far more than he could ever buy - a place in God's family.
- If you are a Christian, then you are safe in God's family. But have you remembered that Jesus wants to find each of your friends? No matter what they have done. Don't be like the crowd. Jesus wants to find the children you know who *aren't* your friends - the naughtiest boy and the least kind girl. He wants to bring them into his family. How can you help?
- Or maybe you think you don't *need* to be in God's family because you're good enough. Remember the crowd. Don't stand there and watch as Jesus' finds other people.
- Or maybe you think you *can't* be in God's family because you're too bad. Remember Zacchaeus. No-one is too bad for Jesus to save them. Let Jesus find you.

What a story!

Zacchaeus was lost

Jesus found Zacchaeus

Jesus brought Zacchaeus into God's family

Jesus is the friend of sinners. Don't be an enemy of Jesus, like the crowd, thinking you don't need him, you don't need to be in his family. Any of us can be in his family. All of us need to be in his family.

Let's pray, talking to God.

Dear Father, Thank you that you found Zacchaeus and brought him into your family. Please help us to understand if we are in your family. Because that is the best place to be. Amen



Talk: Dying as a criminal

LUKE 23:32-49

Secret Agents Holiday Club

Big Idea: Jesus died, although he had done nothing wrong. He died in our place to allow us to be with him forever.

Aim: To understand that Jesus died for me. I have a certain future.

Needed: Three male leaders or three silhouettes/ cutouts to be Criminal 1, 2 and Jesus. 3 plain light coloured t-shirts, very fat pens or paint, cricket ball, football

Instructions are marked in *blue italics*

Pictures or powerpoint are marked in *orange italics*

I am going to show you a series of choices. For each one you get to choose which you prefer. Ready?

- *[pictures of each]* Sweets or chocolate?
- ...Point left if you would choose sweets. Point Right if you would choose chocolate.
- *[pictures of each]* Beach or swimming pool?
- *[pictures of each]* Ready salted crisps or Cheese and onion?
- *[pictures of each]* Football or swimming?
- *[pictures of each]* Apple juice or Orange juice?
- *[pictures of each]* Burger or pizza?

Each day we have choices to make. But most aren't important. Today, we're going to see that we all have *one* very important choice to make. Please listen. *You* are going to have to choose!

In today's story from the Bible we meet two people. Two criminals who were with Jesus at the cross. One on his left and one on his right. They had a choice to make. They made different choices.

[Visual of three men on crosses - from our package of resources] Read v32-33

[Introduce your three characters each wearing a plain t-shirt. Stand in order from children's left, to children's right: Criminal 1, Jesus, Criminal 2]

We have three people. I want you to imagine that each of their t-shirts shows what they have done

wrong in their lives.

[Draw and write on the front of the t-shirt of Criminal 1 to create a mess]

To be sent to the cross, these criminals must have been in charge of dangerous riots *[write 'riot']* or killed people *['kill']*. These men were the very worst of criminals *['worst']*.

[Draw and write on the front of the t-shirt of Criminal 2 to create a mess. Quick and dirty. Keep the pace up. It doesn't need to be legible]

This criminal would be the same *[write 'kill']*. None of us are as bad as them. But we have lied *['lie']*. We have said "no" to our parents *['No!']*. And we have learnt this week that we all say, "no" to God. That's sin *['sin']*. Thinking we are the boss. Not letting Jesus be king all the time *[draw a crown then cross it out]*. Trying to make our own rules. These things make our hearts dirty and guilty before God.

[Stand with your pen/brush ready to mark Jesus' t-shirt]

Now Jesus.... What shall I write on his t-shirt? *[Pause]* Nothing! Jesus was different. The only person who ever lived, never to have done *anything* wrong. No disobedience. No lies. He only ever spoke to help and encourage. He was only ever kind and loving. His heart looked like this - pure. Perfect. Without a stain. Because he is God.

[Pointing to one of the criminal's t-shirts] We're nowhere near as bad as we could be, we try hard to make good choices, we're nowhere near as bad as these criminals but we're not good, *[Pointing to Jesus' t-shirt]* We're not like Jesus.

We know God is perfect, pure and good so he can't ignore sin. The things we do, say or think that are wrong hurt him. God sees our dirty hearts.

[Pointing to one of the criminal's t-shirts] If you had clothes like this, you couldn't walk into your head teacher's office. So you can't walk into forever with God with a heart like this. We can't be in his family like this. It doesn't matter how much we try, or how good Mum thinks we are. I can't fix it. None of us can fix it.

1. [Text on screen] The first criminal chose to keep his sin

[Stand by Criminal 1, looking at Jesus] Let's hear what he said to Jesus...

Read v39

The criminal didn't understand who Jesus was. So he laughed and teased Jesus. He thought, "You can't be God's King if you're dying on a cross. No King dies on a cross. And if you really are God's King, get us all out of here."

But this criminal was being punished for something he really did do. It wouldn't be fair to be let off. He was being punished for his sin. He was getting what he deserved.

[Pointing to Criminal 1's t-shirt] This is the wrong choice. If we choose to keep our sin. We can't be in God's family. *[Pause]* Just listen for the right choice....

2. [Text on screen] The second criminal chose to swap his sin with Jesus

[Stand by Criminal 2, looking at Jesus]

Read v40-41

"Don't you fear God?" He understood that he was being punished for what he had done against God.

"We are getting what our sins deserve." He understood that his sin was being punished fairly. Punishment is never nice. But it is fair.

"But this man has done nothing wrong." He understood that Jesus was innocent. That he shouldn't be there. Let me tell you why Jesus chose to stay there.

Read v42

He asked Jesus, "Please let me be in your family, in heaven, now and forever. Let me be with you after I die"

[Jesus and Criminal 2 take off their t-shirts. Put Criminal 2's t-shirt on Jesus]

This criminal chose to give his sin to Jesus. On the cross Jesus was being punished for the sin of other people. Anyone who trusts Jesus as their King can have their sins paid for.

But that's not the end.

[Put Jesus' t-shirt on Criminal 2]

Not only have his sins been taken away. Jesus' perfect life has been given to him. People who trust Jesus as their King still sin, but we say sorry to God and know that he forgives us. All our sin has been

given to Jesus. It's gone.

[Point to Jesus' t-shirt on Criminal 2] This is what God sees when he sees his friends. If you're trusting Jesus as the King of your life, when God looks at you he sees Jesus' perfect heart.

Read v43

[Stand by Jesus, looking at Criminal 2] You heard Jesus' amazing answer? "As soon as you die, you will be with me in heaven."

Heaven is a real place. A bit like this, ground under your feet, sky above your head. People. Animals. Trees. But it is perfect; full of good things without being ruined by the brokenness of sin. Chocolate cake without feeling sick. Friendships without arguments. Families without breakups. No more sin. Forever with Jesus.

[Pointing to Criminal 2's new t-shirt] This is the best choice. If we choose to give Jesus our sin we can be in God's family because we have Jesus' perfect life *[Pause]* That is the swap of the cross. That is why Jesus died. So that he could be punished for your sin, so that you can be in his family. Forever.

We choose what we do with our own sin.

[Pointing to Criminal 1's messy t-shirt] Are you going to choose to hold onto your own sin? Please don't.

[Pointing to Criminal 1's messy t-shirt] Are you going to swap your sin with Jesus and enjoy heaven with him? Trust Jesus as king and give him your sin

This is what it means to be a Christian. If you are a Christian, then your sin has been forgiven and Jesus is now your King.

If you are not a Christian then, you can choose to become a Christian. Jesus loves you and wants you in his family. Choose carefully. You have listened so well.

[You can decide if it would be appropriate to explain how to become a Christian]

To become a Christian you can pray 3 simple things: Sorry, Thank you, Please.

Dear Father,

Sorry – for my sin and the way I've treated you.

Thanks – for Jesus and that he died to swap places with me.

Please – let me live with Jesus as my King. Forever. Amen.

Why not quietly speak to a leader and your parent to tell them what you've chosen.



Talk: Raised to new life

LUKE 24:36-53

Secret Agents Holiday Club

Big Idea: Jesus rose to life forever. He reigns in Heaven while his friends tell the world his good news.

Aim: To be certain, despite appearances, that Jesus is alive and ruling in Heaven

Needed: Child's toy bread and a real slice of bread [or use any plastic child's toy and the 'real thing'], pictures or PowerPoint images.

Instructions are marked in *blue italics*

Pictures or powerpoint are marked in *orange italics*

There have been many great kings who have ruled. Some were incredibly powerful.

You might have heard of King Tutankhamun of ancient Egypt. *[picture of Tut's solid gold mask]* He was so important that he was buried with a solid gold mask on his sarcophagus.

When he died, aged just 18 years old, he was the most powerful man in the world.

But he did die. *[picture of any Egyptian cloth-wrapped mummy]*. He doesn't look very powerful anymore. You would never know he was a king.

Because however important a king is, after he has died, he's no longer a king. He's just a body. He's lost all his power, all his people, all his money. And there will be a new king. The old king is dead. Gone.

Jesus said he was even more powerful. He said he was the King of Kings. He said he was the one who gave other kings their lives and their power.

- ***[Text on screen]* Jesus died and was buried**

Then just like all other kings, Jesus died. He didn't get a fancy golden coffin. His body was just laid in cloths, and placed in a stone tomb.

But Jesus is different. Every other king who has ever lived is buried. If you went digging you could find the body, or the ashes, of every single king who has ever lived. You'll never find Jesus' dead body, because...

1. ***[Text on screen]* Jesus is alive today**

Easy to say, but pretty hard to believe. Listen to what happened three days after Jesus' dead body was placed in a tomb.

Read v36-39

[picture of Jesus standing with his friends]

When Jesus stood in the room with his friends, they didn't believe it was him.

They thought he was a ghost. They were scared of him. There was silence in the room.

So Jesus showed them his scars, where the nails had been.

You can tell the real thing when you see it.

[Show children's play bread and real bread.]

You can tell which is the fake and which is the real thing. Jesus' friends touched and saw him. They knew he was the real thing. They knew he was alive.

We know he's alive. He must be God. Only God can rise from the dead, never to die again.

So where is he now? Let's find out.

2. ***[Text on screen]* Jesus rules in Heaven**

Read v51-52

[picture of Jesus rising up, as his friends watch]

That must have looked very strange! Jesus just flew away. Like superman, but for real.

He left his friends to go to Heaven.

He went to Heaven to rule. And that's where he is now. Ruling the world.

Heaven is a real place. If you were there, you could touch it. The Bible explains that it looks like our world looks. You'd expect that because God made both of them.

Jesus is there now. If you were there, you could touch him.

Jesus is still a real person, with a real body, just like his friends found out.

Now that's hard to understand, as we can't see Heaven, we can't see Jesus, and we can't visit him. There aren't any photos of Heaven. No one has been there and come back to tell us about it.

[Show pictures of various palaces of world, and of

kings and presidents.] Can the children tell you which country they are in?

Heaven is just as real as those palaces. Jesus is just as real as the kings and presidents who live in them.

We know this is real and true because Jesus tells us in the Bible and we trust Jesus.

He promised to send his Spirit to be with us if we are trusting him. He kept that promise. He did send his Spirit. I am trusting Jesus, and I have his Spirit with me. Always with me. Helping me to become more like Jesus. I can't see his Spirit, but I know he is with me, because Jesus promised. You can trust Jesus and have his Spirit with you. You can feel safe, always. Trust Jesus.

He promised us that he would go to Heaven to rule over everything and everyone as king. So we know that Jesus is in charge of you and me, and everyone else. It doesn't matter where we go. It doesn't even matter what we think of Jesus, he is in charge. Because he is the king. That is what we have learnt this week. He has all power. You can feel protected, always. Trust Jesus.

Finally, he promised that he would prepare a place for all his friends who are trusting him, there, with him. One day you can see Jesus for yourself, you can touch him and talk to him. He has promised. You can look forward to being with him always. Trust Jesus
Jesus never breaks his promises.

Let's pray.

Dear Father,

Thank you that Jesus did not stay dead. Thank you that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today.

Thank you that he is ruling in Heaven today, right now. He is in charge.

Please help us to trust him, so that we can know that he will look after us forever.

Amen.