

Getting to Know Jesus:

introducing children to Jesus

Aims and outcomes

Unit 1: Introducing Jesus			
Lesson	Aims	Outcomes – children will:	Bible reference
1 Jesus Blesses the Children	To introduce children to their RI teacher, the Bible, Jesus, the word Christian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • get to know their RI teacher's name • understand that we can get to know God and Jesus through the Bible • begin to understand that they can know Jesus and that Jesus loves each one of us • understand that a Christian is a person who believes in and follows Jesus Christ. 	Mark 10.13-16
2 The Birth of Jesus	To help children understand that for Christians, Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus and that Jesus is a gift from God to help understand God's great love for us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • know that Christmas means <i>Christ born</i> • see why Jesus is central to the Christian celebration of Christmas • understand that the story of Christmas is in the Bible 	Luke 2.1-7
3 Good News Messengers	To help children understand that just as God used the shepherds to tell others of the birth of Jesus, today God uses ordinary people to spread the Good News of Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hear the story from the Bible of the angels appearing to the shepherds • start to make the connection between the shepherds who look after their sheep and Jesus as the Good Shepherd 	Luke 2.8-20
4 Jesus Grows Up	To give children an insight into the loving family to which Jesus belonged. It provides an opportunity for the children to think about how, like Jesus, they are growing in wisdom and strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hear the story from the Bible of 12 year old Jesus listening to and questioning the teachers in the temple • understand that Jesus grew up in a family • learn that Jesus was obedient to Mary and Joseph 	Luke 2.41-52
5 Jesus is Baptised and Tested	To introduce children to Jesus as a grown man beginning his public ministry and choosing to be baptised by John the Baptist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hear that Jesus is a grown man and is ready to do his work for God amongst the people • hear that after his baptism, Jesus went into the desert where he was tested by Satan. Like Jesus, we too are tempted to choose right or wrong 	Mark 1.9-13

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Unit 2: <i>Jesus' Ministry</i>			
Lesson	Aims	Outcomes – children will:	Bible reference
6. Jesus Calls Four Fishermen	To help children to hear Jesus' call to Simon (Peter), Andrew, James, and John to follow him	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learn that even Jesus needed help when he was trying to help people learn a new way of following God hear about four of the people who answered Jesus' call to follow him hear that Christians are people who hear this call from Jesus and say 'yes' 	Mark 1.14-20
7. Jesus Heals many People	To help children to see that Jesus offers people a way to be healed in mind, body, and soul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explore how Jesus goes about announcing the kingdom. He is a man of action, worshipping in the synagogue, driving out demons, healing many people, and making time to pray alone by rising early hear how Jesus is 'good news' for many people see that Jesus also needed quiet time in his day where he could be alone and pray 	Mark 1.21-45
8. Jesus Rides into Jerusalem	To help children to see that Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed or Chosen One promised by God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> see that Jesus did not choose the 'safe option' and stay in the countryside, rather he went to Jerusalem where he is in much more danger from his enemies see that Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey which fulfils the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9, and Isaiah 62:11 	Mark 11.1-11
9a. Jesus has a Last Supper with his Disciples	To introduce children to Jesus' last meal with his disciples and the significance of his actions breaking bread and sharing wine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> make a link between the Last Supper and the communion service that Christian Churches continue to celebrate today 	Mark 14.22-25
9b.* Jesus Makes Enemies, Judas Betrays Jesus * for older children	To help older children to understand that not everyone was happy with the message Jesus was spreading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> see that some of the leaders were trying to find a way to get rid of Jesus but they were scared of how the crowds who followed Jesus would react come to see that Jesus even had an enemy amongst his friends 	Mark 14.1-2, 10-11
10. Jesus Dies	To give children a simple outline of the events of the week from Palm Sunday to Good Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> have the opportunity to go through some of the key parts of the events leading up to the death of Jesus 	Mark 15.33-37

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Unit 3: <i>The Risen Jesus</i>			
Lesson	Aims	Outcomes – children will:	Bible reference
11. Jesus is alive	To help children to understand that for Christians the Easter story is a story of hope, a story of new life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• see that the story of Jesus does not finish with his death but continues with his resurrection• see that just as seeds, when nurtured, can give new life, Christians believe that the Easter story brings new life and hope through Jesus	Mark 16.1-8
12. Jesus says 'Peace Be with you'	To help children to understand that Christians believe that Jesus brings peace in times of fear and disappointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• hear about Jesus visiting his friends and giving them a special blessing 'Peace be with you'• hear that Jesus breathed on the disciple and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'	John 20.19-23
13. Jesus appears to Thomas and the Other Disciples	To help children to understand that they can trust Jesus even without seeing him	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• talk about places they go to be quiet and at peace• talk about what peace is, and the peace that Jesus offers• see that some people need to see something to believe that it is real, while other people are able to believe something because they trust the person who is telling it	John 20.24-29
14. The Disciples Catch Many Fish	To help children understand that Jesus calls his followers to try new ways and to trust in him and allow him to bring them an abundance of gifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• talk about any experiences they have had with fishing• learn that Christians listen to God's voice and try to follow God's ways• learn that when Christians talk to God and listen to God, they are praying	John 21.1-14
15. Jesus Farewells his Disciples	To help children understand that Jesus' mission did not finish when he ascended to heaven, it continues today through his followers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• talk about Jesus passing his message to his disciples, and that message is still being passed on through his followers 2,000 years later• talk about ways Christians continue to follow Jesus instruction to be Good News for others	Matthew 28.16-20

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Unit 4: The Early Church – In the Spirit of Jesus			
Lesson	Aims	Outcomes – children will:	Bible reference
16. The First Community in Jerusalem	To help children come to understand the beginnings of the Church that we know today	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learn that the early Christians centred all their activities around what they knew and remembered about Jesus, especially the things he taught them 	Acts 1.13-14,21-26
17. The Birthday of the Christian Church	To introduce children to the power of the Holy Spirit of God through the story of Pentecost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear the story of Pentecost from the bible and the effect that the Holy Spirit had on the on the apostles so that they could tell others about Jesus make a link between the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and that Christians believe that the same Holy Spirit of God is with Christians today 	Acts 2.1-12
18. The Common Life of Believers	To give children a glimpse at the way in which the first followers of Jesus lived their lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear that the early followers of Jesus centred their lives around the teachings of the apostles, the prayers and the fellowship in the breaking of bread learn that just as the early followers of Jesus helped those in need, so too do today's followers of Jesus help those in need 	Acts 2.42-47
19. Peter Heals in the Name of Jesus	To help children to see that many miracles and wonders were being performed through the apostles in the name of Jesus Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear that the apostles are fearless in preaching the good news hear that praying together was important to the followers of Jesus 	Acts 3.1-10
20. Sharing All Things Together	To help children to understand the practice of the early followers of Jesus who joined the apostles and were of one heart and one soul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learn that many of the early Christians sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with the community hear about Joseph from Cyprus (Barnabas) who sold a field he owned and gave the money to the apostles to share amongst those who needed it make a link to the works of Christians today 	Acts 4.32-37
21. Remembering Jesus – Lydia	To introduce children to the story of Lydia, a woman who opened her heart to respond to Paul's message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear the story of Lydia heard the apostle Paul preach about Jesus learn that Lydia was baptised along with her the members of her household 	Acts 16.11-15

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Unit 5: Encounters with Jesus			
Lesson	Aims	Outcomes – children will:	Bible reference
22. Wedding Feast at Cana	To introduce children to this first of the signs through which Jesus revealed his glory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear an example of prayer when Mary became aware that the wine had run out hear that prayer is talking to God, and as Jesus is God, when Mary asked Jesus to help the young couple, she was praying to God 	John 2.1-12
23. Four Friends take a Paralysed Man to Jesus	To introduce children to this story of the faith and friendship of four friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear about four friends who went to great lengths to bring their paralysed friend to Jesus hear that Jesus has the power to forgive sins and to heal the sick 	Mark 2.1-12
24. Jesus Heals Bartimaeus	To introduce the children to another story of Jesus helping someone who most people ignored as they passed by him	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear about a man called Bartimaeus who cannot see and calls out to Jesus to help him 'see again' know that Jesus will help Bartimaeus if his voice can be heard over the noise of the crowd 	Mark 10.46-52
25. Jesus Meets Zacchaeus	To show children how Jesus helps people to change their ways when they get to know him	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand why people did not like Zacchaeus learn that Zacchaeus had heard about Jesus and wanted to see him for himself begin to realise that Jesus can change people 	Luke 19.1-10
26. Jesus Visits Martha and Mary	To show children that Jesus wants people to get to know him	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> talk about the different ways Mary and Martha respond to Jesus see that although they are both friends of Jesus and show their care for him in different ways talk about ways they can get to know Jesus better 	Luke 10.38-42
27. Jesus Feeds a Crowd of People	To help children to understand that Jesus, the Son of God, is able to help people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear about Jesus feeding a large crowd of people begin to realise that Jesus can help them too 	John 6.1-15
28. Ten People with Leprosy	To show children how Jesus helped a group of outcasts with a terrible skin disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> talk about how different life was in the time of Jesus for people with an affliction talk about how their lives changed because they trusted Jesus and begged for his help talk about the importance of thanking God for the gifts we have been given 	Luke 17.11-19

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Unit 6: <i>Stories Jesus Told</i>			
Lesson	Aims	Outcomes – children will:	Bible reference
The following five Lessons are based on parables. Jesus told parables, simple and memorable stories, to teach his followers a lesson in their daily lives			
29. The Sower and the Seed	To help children to understand that those who listen to Jesus and put down deep roots of faith will bear fruit and spread God's goodness to others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear the story Jesus tells of the sower and the seed and think about "what sort of soil can I be?" talk about how they can help each other to be the good soil that grows deeper in faith 	Mark 4.1-9
30. The Two Sons	To help children to think about how they respond to God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear the two different responses the brothers made to their father's request understand that they can think and talk to God (pray) about how they respond to situations in their lives 	Matthew 21.28-32
31. The Good Samaritan	To help children to understand how to live as a Christian – compassionate, peacemaker, care of neighbour and strangers in need, love of enemies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear from Jesus what it means to be a good neighbour to others discuss how they can be a good Samaritan – a good neighbour – to those around them 	Luke 10.25-37
32. The Lost Sheep	To help children to understand that God and all of heaven celebrates when someone who is lost returns to Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear a story where Jesus is compared to a shepherd who goes searching for one of his sheep who has lost his way discuss how when we turn away from Jesus we are not abandoned – like the shepherd, Jesus goes looking for us and celebrated when we return to follow Jesus 	Luke 15.1-7
33. The Tax Collector and Pharisee	To help children to understand that God wants us to be humble rather than proud and showing off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear a story that can transform their attitude to the poor, the outcast, the vulnerable, and the humble learn that humility is knowing who we are in the sight of God understand that Christians believe that all our talents and abilities are gifts from God 	Luke 18.9-14

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Unit 7: Stories Jesus Knew			
Lesson	Aims	Outcomes – children will:	Bible reference
34. A Story of Creation	To help children see that God creates, out of nothing, with intentionality, and what God creates is good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear that this first creation story in the Bible was written by ancient authors who saw that God had created a world full of beauty and wonder hear that Christians believe that God is the one that started life as we know it 	Genesis 1.1-31, 2.1-3
35.* Another Creation Story – Adam and Eve *for older children	To explore another creation story from the Bible where we learn something about the need for humanity to live in relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear this second creation account where God does not want humanity to be lonely but to live in relationship explore the relationship between humans and animals learn more about a creative, loving, giving God 	Genesis 2.7-25
36. Another Creation Story – Noah	To help children to realise that how we live, and how we relate to each other and the world really matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> discover Noah and his family who were faithful to God and live in right relationship to God and others hear that Noah warned others to turn from their bad choices, but no-one would listen discuss how they can help others to change from bad choices to making choices that will bring them closer to God 	Genesis 6.9-22, 9.8-13
37. Abraham and Sarah	To help children to see that God keeps every promise that God makes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learn about the promises God made to Abraham see that God is always faithful and that nothing is impossible for God learn that Jesus can be traced back to Abraham 	Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16
38. Joseph and His Brothers	To help children come to know God's providence both for the individual and for God's people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear this story of sibling rivalry, jealousy, favouritism, immaturity, treachery, wisdom, and to see God's hand guiding events and eventual reconciliation discover the relationship between Joseph and his brothers and Abraham and Sarah learn that Christians pray to God to ask to help them sort out their feelings and overcome them 	Genesis 37.5-36
39. The Birth of Moses	To help children come to see that Christians believe that God has a plan for every person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear this story about Moses, another of Abraham's descendants learn that God saved Moses because God had a plan for Moses learn that Christians are called to pray and discern God's plan for their lives 	Exodus 2.1-10
40. God Calls Moses	To help children discover how God might be trying get their attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear about God caught Moses's attention because God wanted to talk to him discuss ways God might get their attention to talk to them 	Exodus 3.1-6

41. Moses and the Ten Commandments	To introduce children to the Ten Commandments which God gave Moses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hear a continuation of the story of Moses where he receives the Ten Commandments from God • understand that these commandments were given by God as a way to be a people who live in right relationship with God, neighbour, and all creation 	Exodus 20.1-17
42. David is Anointed	To help the children understand that God chose David to be king rather than any of his seven older brothers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discover that the story of David connects Jesus with his ancestors – the House of David • hear that from when David was anointed with oil the Spirit of the Lord was upon him 	1 Samuel 16.1-13
43. David and Goliath	To help children see that David was not acting on his own, he put his faith in God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discover that although still a young boy, David takes on a huge challenge because he has faith that God will deliver Goliath to him • discuss that Christians believe that their faith in God will help them overcome struggles in life 	1 Samuel 17

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Unit 8: Messages from Jesus			
Lesson	Aims	Outcomes – children will:	Bible reference
44. The Kingdom of God is Like ... a Mustard Seed	To help children discover that the Christian church started with Jesus and his disciples and now has over 2.3 billion members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear that Jesus told his followers that even though the mustard seed was the smallest of all seeds on earth, when planted it grew to the largest garden plant and gave shelter to the birds learn that like the small mustard seed the Christian church started with Jesus and his small group of followers and has over 2.3 billion members hear that Christians believe that the deepest desire of all humanity is to encounter God 	Mark 4.30-34
45. The Kingdom of God is Like ... a Treasure Hidden in a Field	To help children discover that the most precious treasure is God's kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hear that the kingdom of God is more valuable than anything we own talk about what they treasure most of all hear that Christians believe that encountering God through Jesus is worth more than anything the world has to offer 	Matthew 13.44
46. Jesus is the True Vine	To help children understand how closely connected they are to Jesus – they are like branches that grow on a vine (Jesus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learn in this parable that Jesus is the source of all life discover that by staying connected to Jesus through prayer, reading the Bible, and learning more about Jesus they can continue to grow in their understanding of who they are in the sight of God 	John 15.1-5, 7-8
47. *Jesus Says ... *bonus lesson	To help children understand that they can trust Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> play a game that will reassure them that Christians believe that Jesus cares about them; wants to be their friend and confidante; that they can rely on Jesus in good times; in difficult times; when a difficult choice needs to be made; and in all life 	

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Unit 9: Catholic Addendum			
Lesson	Aims	Outcomes – children will:	Bible reference
48. The Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop	By looking at the story of St Mary of the Cross, to help children to think about the choices they make as they journey through life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• be challenged to choose ways that put God first• find that when they put God first, everything else in life falls into place• consider their actions and attitude to 'having things' that they may not really need and how this can damage our fragile planet• see that St Mary of the Cross took Jesus' message to heart in her care for the poor and education of children	Matthew 6:24-34
Extra Content:			
Catholic Corner	To help Catholic children experience this resource through a Catholic 'lens'		
Mysteries of the Rosary	To introduce Catholic children to the prayer of the Rosary		