

## God Is Pleased With His King

*Matthew 3:1-16, John 1:34*

**Main Point** - Jesus, God's Son, makes his Father happy.

### Play Activities

- Insect play - provide a set of plastic insects (include a bee and locust) for the children to play with. Make the following point as you play with the children: *There are insects in today's story. Can you guess which insects they might be?*
- Bird puppets - provide bird glove puppets for the children to play with. Make the following point as you play with the children: *In today's story, God's Spirit looked like a bird flying down on Jesus from heaven.*
- Dress ups - provide a variety of dress up clothes and props for the children to dress up ready for something (see Introductory Activity Option 1 for ideas).
- Special morning tea - **Warning: check for allergies before beginning this activity.** Make either crumpet fingers or muffins, spread with butter and honey to eat. Or, provide pikelets for the children to spread with butter and honey. Leaders only are to place muffins/crumpets in the toaster. Be sure children and leaders wash hands before touching food. Provide a clean surface for the children to work on (i.e. a paper plate). Provide blunt plastic butter knives for the children to spread the butter. The honey can be bought in squeeze bottles for the children to drizzle all over the crumpet/muffin.

### Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

### Introductory Option 1: Get Ready

Aim: for the children to get ready as quickly as possible and then to say what they are ready for.

Need:

- four bags of props and clothes suitable for children to dress up in (the amount needs to be roughly the same in each bag)
- bride: white dress, veil, flowers
- chef: chef hat and apron, mixing bowl and spoon
- builder: builder's jacket and hat, tool box
- fireman: fireman hat, coat/pants and hose

Instructions:

- Select four children.
- Hand them a bag each.
- On *Go!* they need to put on everything in the bag and then call out what they are ready for (i.e. a wedding, to cook, to build, a fire).
- First child ready is the winner.

Conclusion:

- *We need to do something to get ready for a wedding, to cook a cake, to build a house or to put out a fire.*
- *We need to put on the right clothes and pick up the right equipment.*
- *John the Baptist had a job to do.*
- *He had to get everyone ready.*
- *Not for a wedding.*
- *Not even for a fire.*
- *He had to get the people ready because someone special was coming.*
- *Someone who was different from anyone else who had ever been born.*
- *That someone was Jesus, God's one and only Son.*
- *Let's remind ourselves what happened.*

### Introductory Option 2: Appropriately Dressed

Need:

- a plastic locust and a plastic butterfly
- some honey and jam
- a furry outfit and coat

- a scarf and a leather belt

Ask for a volunteer to be John.

Ask four children to take turns in dressing up as John.

They have to choose from a plastic locust or a plastic butterfly, some honey or jam, a furry outfit or coat, a scarf or a leather belt.

Conclusion:

- *John wore some strange clothes.*
- *He ate even stranger food.*
- *But John had a very important job to do.*
- *He had to get people ready.*
- *Ready for someone very, very special.*
- *Let's remind ourselves what happened.*

## Story Time

### Option 1

Use the script titled, *John the Baptist and Jesus' Baptism* (pages 6-7) and the PowerPoint of the same title from the *Kidswise* web site (available if a *Kidswise Membership* has been taken out).

Either show the PowerPoint on a wide screen computer or use a data projector and screen, or make the PowerPoint pictures into a booklet.

### Option 2

Use the script titled, *John the Baptist and Jesus' Baptism* (pages 6-7) as your guide and retell Matthew 3. Use appropriate felt pieces to illustrate each section of the story. You will need: John, belt, brown tunic, honey pot, river, crowd of people, Jesus, dove.

### Option 3

Use the script titled, *John the Baptist and Jesus' Baptism* (pages 6-7) as your guide and retell Matthew 3. Seat the children in a circle. Place the following items behind you: leather belt, fur tunic, honey pot, river made from material, dove. Pull each item out at the appropriate time in the story.

### Option 4

Read the story of John the Baptist and Jesus' Baptism from a good children's Bible (e.g. *The Beginner's Bible*, © 1989, Gold 'n Honey Books, page 310).

**Memory Verse**

John 1:34 (CEV)

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

**Discussion (small groups)**

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- cloth bag
- jar of honey
- plastic locust
- furry outfit
- leather belt
- origami bird

Seat children in a circle with props inside the cloth bag on one side.

Select a child to pull out an item from the bag. Encourage the child to retell that part of the story the prop reminds them of. As a group place items in the correct order in the centre of the circle.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *John said that there was someone special coming. Who was the special person John told them about?*  
(Jesus)
- *We know that Jesus is special because amazing things happened when Jesus came up out of the water. Heaven opened up and God's Spirit came down on Jesus, looking like a bird. Can you remember what God said about Jesus?*  
(“I love Jesus. He is my Son. He makes me happy.”)

Conclusion:

- *John said someone special was coming.*
- *When Jesus came, amazing things happened.*
- *Heaven opened, God's Spirit came down looking like a dove and God spoke.*
- *God told the world - Jesus is his Son.*
- *Jesus always makes God happy.*

## Prayer Time

### Repeated Prayer

*Dear God, – thank you for sending Jesus – your one and only Son.  
– Thank you that – Jesus left heaven – to come to earth for us. –  
Amen*

### Individual Prayer

Encourage each child to pray his or her own prayer.

## Craft Activities

- Locust - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil that has a picture of a locust and the title, *John the Baptist ate locusts and wild honey. His job was to get everyone ready for Jesus, God's Son. Matthew 3:1-16*. Make one copy per child on A4 paper. Provide crayons and strips of green paper for the children to decorate the locust.
- Bee - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil that has a picture of a bee. Copy and cut one bee per child on cardboard. Provide yellow crepe paper for the children to scrunch up and glue to the bees. Attach a paddle pop stick to the back of each bee.
- Dove - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil that has a picture of a dove with the title, *When Jesus was baptized the heavens parted, God's Spirit came down on Jesus looking like a dove and God spoke. God said, 'Jesus is my Son whom I love. He makes me happy.' Matthew 3:1-16*. Make one copy per child on coloured A4 paper. Provide white feathers and wood glue for the children to decorate the bird.

## **John The Baptist And Jesus' Baptism**

*Matthew 3:1-16, John 1:34*

Matthew wrote a book to tell us all about Jesus, God's special King.  
Matthew's book is in the Bible.  
At the beginning of his book, Matthew tells us about a man named John.  
God gave John a special job to do.  
He had to get everyone ready.  
Ready for someone very special!  
John wore strange clothes.  
John wore camel's hair and a leather belt.  
Do you wear clothes made from camel?  
John ate strange food, locusts and wild honey.  
Do you eat locusts?  
And John said strange things, "Get ready. Stop doing bad things and start obeying God. Because God is sending someone special."  
The people came from everywhere to hear John.  
The people said sorry for the bad things they'd done.  
The people went into the river with John.  
They went under the water and came up again.  
They wanted to show God they were sorry for the bad things they'd done.  
Then John said, "Someone special is coming. He is from God."  
And one day Jesus came.  
Jesus wanted to go under the water and come back up just like the people.  
But John shook his head and said, "No, you are special."  
But Jesus said, "John, you must do it."  
So John helped Jesus go under the water and come back up again.  
Jesus did this to show that one day he would fix up the problem of the bad things people do.  
As soon as Jesus came up out of the water amazing things happened!  
God's heaven opened up.  
God's Spirit came down on Jesus looking like a bird.  
Then God spoke from heaven and said, "This is my Son. I love him. He always makes me happy."

Conclusion:

John had a special job to do.

He had to get everyone ready because someone special was coming.

Jesus!

How do we know that Jesus was so special?

Because when Jesus came up out of the water, heaven opened up.

When Jesus came up out of the water, God's Spirit came down on him looking like a bird.

And when Jesus came up out of the water, God spoke.

"This is my Son. I love him. He always makes me happy!"

Children, Jesus is special, because Jesus is God's Son.

## The King Who Makes Us Friends With God

*Matthew 8:1-4*

**Main Point** - Jesus is the only one who can make us friends with God.

### Play Activities

- Imaginary play - provide washing baskets, doll's clothes, a toy washing machine (can be made from a large cardboard box), pegs and washing line (can be strung up across one corner of the room) for the children to pretend to wash the dirty clothes and hang them out to dry.
- Doll's hospital - provide dolls, cradles, baby clothes and wraps as well as doctor's equipment and clothes and have the children pretend to care for the sick dolls. You may like to provide dot stickers to stick on the dolls to pretend they are sick. Make the following point as you play with the children: *Talk to the children about how Jesus made people who were sick well again.*
- Block play - provide foam or wooden blocks and figurines for the children to create towns full of people, connected by roads. Make the following point as you play with the children: *place a figure outside of town all by him/herself and ask the children how that person might feel if he/she wasn't allowed to live in town with friends and family.*

### Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

### What's Wrong With Me?

Leaders mime the following situations and the children have to guess what's wrong with them.

Situations:

- Eating lots of food and then vomiting.
- Running along, tripping over and breaking arm.



- Waking up to find you have chicken pox all over your body.

Conclusion:

- *When we vomit we have to stay in bed and rest.*
- *When we break our arm we can't go outside and play with our friends.*
- *And when we get the chicken pox we can't see our friends at all.*
- *Today we're going to hear about a man who was very, very sick.*
- *So sick he wasn't allowed to live at home or see his friends ever!*
- *How sad is that!*

## Story Time

### Option 1

Retell the story using the script titled, *The Leper* (page 12) as your guide. Retell the story using cardboard roll people for the Leper, two people and Jesus. You will also need a stethoscope (doctor couldn't make him well), dot stickers (leprosy) and a Bible Times town (to show the children that he had to live by himself).

### Option 2

Retell the story using the script titled, *The Leper* (page 12) as your guide. Retell the story using felt. You will need a felt board and the following felt pieces:

- Leper
- two people
- Jesus
- dots (for leprosy)
- Bible Times town

You will also need a stethoscope to give the felt Leper a medical check.

## Memory Verse

John 1:34 (CEV)

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

**Discussion (small groups)**

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- dot stickers (enough to put a few on each child)

Seat children in a circle with stickers to one side. Encourage the group to retell the story and as they do, place dot stickers on the children that contribute (aim: to encourage all children to contribute). At the end of the story, when Jesus makes the man better, ask the children to take off their stickers.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *The man was not well. He was covered in sores. Where did the man live?*  
(all by himself, alone)
- *What happened when Jesus touched the sick man?*  
(he touched the man and made him better)
- *Where could the man now live?*  
(with his family, friends)

Conclusion:

- *Jesus fixed up the problem of the man's sores.*
- *Because of Jesus, the man could live with his family and see his friends.*
- *Jesus can fix up the problem of our sin.*
- *Because of Jesus we can be friends with God.*
- *Let's stop and thank God for what Jesus has done.*

**Prayer Time**

Repeated Prayer

*Father God, – thank you that – because of Jesus – the man could live with his family – and see his friends. – Thank you that – because of Jesus – we can be your friend. – Amen*

Individual Prayer

Encourage each child to pray his or her own prayer.

### Craft Activities

- Leper - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil that has a picture of a body shape. Copy on A4 cardboard and cut one per child. Provide collage material to decorate the man as well as spot stickers to indicate he had leprosy.
- Group painting - ask one child to lie down on a large piece of paper. Trace around the child's shape. Draw a sad face on the body shape and provide paint for the children to dip small round shapes (the size of a coin, i.e. a glue top lid) in and print spots all over the body shape.

## **The Leper**

*Matthew 8:1-4*

How would you feel if you couldn't live with your Mum or dad?  
How would you feel if you couldn't play with your friends?  
A long time ago there lived a man.  
This man could not live with his family.  
He couldn't see his friends.  
He was sick.  
He was covered with leprosy!  
He had sores all over his body!  
When he walked around he had to call out and warn people not to come near him.  
All the people would run away from him.  
He was very, very sad.  
He couldn't live at home.  
He couldn't see his family.  
Or play with his friends.  
He was so sick even the doctor couldn't make him better.  
So he lived outside the town.  
All by himself.  
(pause)  
But the Leper had heard about Jesus.  
He said to himself, "Jesus can make my sores go away. Jesus can make me better again."  
So he went and found Jesus.  
When he saw Jesus he begged, "Jesus, if you want to, you can make me better."  
Jesus looked at the man and smiled.  
Then he reached out his hand and said, "I will!"  
And immediately, the leprosy went.  
All the sores were gone!

Conclusion:

The man couldn't be friends with his family or friends.  
His leprosy stopped him. But Jesus fixed his problem.  
Children, we can't be friends with God.  
Our sin stops us.  
Our sin stops us being God's friend.  
But Jesus can fix the problem of our sin.  
If you ask Jesus, he will get rid of the problem of your sin, and then you can be friends with God.  
How amazing is that!

## What Impresses God's King

*Matthew 8:5-13*

**Main Point** - Jesus loves it when we believe and trust what he says.

### Play Activities

- Imaginary play - set up the Centurion's home (i.e. bed, simple kitchen/furniture) in one corner of the room and Capernaum (a series of houses made from tables covered in material) in other corner. Provide a winding road between the two scenes (i.e. a series of stepping stones made out of rectangles on thick, non-slip material). Provide Bible Times dress up clothes for the children to dress up in.
- Doctors and Nurses - provide doctors and nurses dress up clothes and play equipment (bandages, slings, toy stethoscopes...) for the children to pretend to be doctors helping the sick.
- Centurion - provide helmets and shields for the children to dress up as soldiers.

### Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

### Centurion Says

This game is a variation on the game, *Simon Says*.

Need:

- soldier's helmet

Instructions:

- Leader puts a helmet on and becomes the Centurion.
- Children become the Centurion's soldiers.
- Centurion calls out an instruction (i.e. *Centurion says, hands in the air*) and does the action at the same time.

- If the instruction doesn't begin with, *Centurion says*, then the children are not to do the action. If the children do the action, they are out.
- The aim is to see who is doing only what the Centurion says.

Conclusion:

- *When a Centurion spoke, things happened.*
- *If he told his men to march, they'd march.*
- *If he told his men to stop, they'd stop.*
- *Whatever he said, they did.*
- *The Centurion knew that when Jesus spoke, things happened.*
- *Things happened because Jesus is the Son of God.*

## Story Time

### Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Centurion* (page 17) to retell the story. You will need plastic figurines (a Centurion, servant, Jesus). Set the scene by building a simple house (i.e. blocks or duplo) that has a bed (i.e. doll's house furniture). Outside the house have a winding road (made from material or use a floor mat with a windy road on it). At the end of the road place the Jesus figurine. You may like to set this up in a sandpit and have a winding road that goes up and over a few hills.

### Option 2

Make a paper doll (see Craft Activities) Centurion, Jesus and sick servant. Use the script titled, *The Centurion* (page 17) and retell the story using the paper dolls.

## Memory Verse

John 1:34 (CEV)

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

**Discussion (small groups)**

Aim: as a group to retell the story using the following props:

- a group of toy soldiers per group

Seat children in a circle and place the toy soldiers in the centre. Begin by asking different children to pretend to be the Centurion giving orders his men. Encourage the children to move the soldiers as if obeying those orders. Make the point that whatever the Centurion says happens.

Encourage the group to then retell the story.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *What was wrong with the Centurion's servant?*  
(he was sick, couldn't move and was in pain)
- *The Centurion knew his servant needed help. Whom did he decide to go and see?*  
(Jesus)
- *What did Jesus say?*  
(go home, his servant would be well)
- *Did the Centurion believe Jesus? Did he trust Jesus?*  
(yes, yes)
- *What did he find when he got home?*  
(the servant was made better just like Jesus had said)

Conclusion:

- *The Centurion knew that when Jesus said something, it happened.*
- *The Centurion knew if Jesus said his servant was better, his servant would be better.*
- *The Centurion believed Jesus.*
- *He trusted Jesus.*
- *Jesus wants us to believe in him.*
- *Jesus wants us to trust him.*
- *Let's pray that we will believe and trust what Jesus says.*

## Prayer Time

### Repeated Prayer

*Father God, – thank you – that the Centurion – believed and trusted Jesus. – Please help us – to believe – and trust – what Jesus says. – Amen*

### Individual Prayer

Encourage each child to pray his or her own prayer.

## Craft Activities

- Helmet - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil that has a picture of a cone hat. Enlarge and copy on A3 cardboard. Cut one per child. Provide kitchen foil torn into small pieces for the children to decorate the cone hat and make into a helmet. Staple the cone shape together by pulling the two sides of the wedge together to form a cone shaped hat.
- Paper doll - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil that has a picture of a body shape. Copy on A4 cardboard and cut one per child. Provide collage material for the children to make a character from today's story: centurion (kitchen foil), sick servant (band-aids, dot stickers) and Jesus (cloth material). **Warning: check for allergies to band-aids before allowing the children to use them.**
- Shield - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil that has a picture of a shield. Copy on A4 cardboard and cut one per child. Attach a strip of cardboard on the back in the middle of the shield to act as a handle. Provide kitchen foil for the children to decorate the shield.
- Sick/well face - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil that has a picture of an oval shaped face with eye holes. Copy on A4 cardboard and cut one per child. Cut out eye holes. Provide the children with craft material for them to make a sick face on one side (i.e. sad face, dot stickers, red cheeks) and a well face on the other side (happy face). Attach a paddle pop stick to face.



## **The Centurion**

*Matthew 8:5-13*

A long time ago, there lived a Centurion.  
He was the boss of one hundred men.  
His men did whatever he told them to do.  
One day, one of the Centurion's servants got very sick.  
He was very, very sick.  
The doctors didn't know what to do.  
But the Centurion knew what to do.  
He would find Jesus.  
So off he walked.  
He walked down the road.  
He walked and walked until he found Jesus.  
When he found Jesus the Centurion said, "Lord Jesus, my servant is very sick."  
Jesus looked at the Centurion and said, "I will come and make him better."  
But the Centurion shook his head.  
"Lord Jesus, I don't deserve to have you come to my home.  
Just say that my servant will get better and I know it will happen.  
I am a Centurion.  
I am the boss of one hundred men.  
I tell my men to 'Go' and they go.  
I tell my men to 'Come' and they come.  
They all do what I say."  
When Jesus heard this he said, "I haven't seen anyone in the whole world who trusts me like this. This Centurion believes what I say."  
Then Jesus said, "Go! Your servant is not sick any more because you believed me."  
The Centurion ran home.  
He found his servant better, just as Jesus said he would be.

Conclusion:

The Centurion believed Jesus. He trusted that everything Jesus said would happen. And it did.  
Children, we can trust what Jesus says to us. Because everything Jesus says happens.  
Jesus is God's King. We can trust him.

## God's Powerful King

*Matthew 8:23-27*

**Main Point** - Jesus is God's Son and we must obey him.

### Play Activities

- Water play - **Warning: never leave children alone with water. Empty water tray as soon as the activity is finished.** Provide a water tray, boats and plastic figurines (that fit in the boats) for the children to play with. Plastic aprons will stop the children getting wet. Make the following point as you and the children play: *In today's story there's a big storm. Let's make waves and see what happens to our boats.*
- Dry water play - provide a material lake (i.e. blue material sewn into the shape of a lake, with padding sewn inside) boats and plastic figurines (that fit in the boats) for the children to play with. Make the following point as you and the children play: *In today's story there's a big storm. Let's make waves and see what happens to our boats.*
- Imaginary play - provide a blue plastic tarpaulin (the lake), a large cardboard box (the boat) and Bible Times costumes for the children to play with. Encourage the children to create a storm.
- Musical instruments - provide musical instruments to create the sounds of a big storm.

### Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

### Experiment

- If windy or raining, take the children outside or to a window.
- **Note: don't have children leaning out the window.**
- Ask the children to tell the wind or rain to stop. (i.e. *Stop*

*wind! Stop rain!)*

- When it doesn't stop, suggest that they shout louder.
- And louder.
- Ask: *Why can't we get the wind or rain to do what we say?* (because we are not God)

## Story Time

### Option 1

Use the script titled, *Calming of the Storm* (pages 22-23) and retell the calming of the storm. You may like to have a leader play the role of Jesus asleep on the boat. Divide the children into the following roles:

- some children pretend to be the disciples and get onto the boat (i.e. sit on a large blue tarpaulin), encourage them to rock from side to side when on the boat
- other children play musical instruments for the wind, rain and thunder
- other children hold the edge of the tarpaulin and move it up and down as the storm builds up

**Warning: do not make the room too dark or the storm too scary.**

### Option 2

Use the script titled, *Calming of the Storm* (pages 22-23) and retell the story. Draw a series of pictures as you retell the story.

Picture 1: Disciples on the boat, add Jesus asleep.

Picture 2: Draw boat caught in a storm, add Jesus standing and commanding the storm to stop.

Picture 3: Draw the boat on calm water.

## Memory Verse

John 1:34 (CEV)

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

## Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- blue material or a sheet of blue cellophane, one per group
- boat, one per group

Seat children in a circle with blue material/cellophane in centre. Place boat on the material/cellophane and ask the children to hold the edge of it. Encourage the group to retell the story and as they do, create waves for the boat until it's really being tossed about and then make it still. You may like to repeat this a number of times as a group, encouraging the children to **stop still** all at once.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *It was a very bad storm. What was Jesus doing when the storm came?*  
(he was asleep)
- *Show me how Jesus' disciples were feeling?*  
(frightened)
- *Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen. They were used to being in storms. If they were frightened by this storm, it means that it was a very, very, very bad storm! Who did they turn to for help?*  
(Jesus)
- *How did Jesus stop the storm?*  
(he spoke and it stopped)

Conclusion:

- *Jesus did what only God could do.*
- *The Bible is very clear.*
- *Jesus is God.*
- *And just like the wind and the waves, there is only thing for us to do.*
- *Obey Jesus.*
- *Let's stop and ask God to help us to obey Jesus.*

## Prayer Time

### Repeated Prayer

*Dear God, – thank you that Jesus – stopped the wind and the waves. – Thank you that Jesus – is your Son. – Please help us – to obey Jesus. – Amen*

### Individual Prayer

Encourage each child to pray his or her own prayer.

## Craft Activities

- Origami boats - fold a square piece of coloured paper to make a boat (i.e. fold all four corners into the middle, turn the square over and fold up one corner into the middle). Purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil titled, *The wind obeyed Jesus. The waves obeyed Jesus. Jesus is God's Son and we must obey Jesus. Matthew 8:23-27* Copy one per child on A3 paper. Have the children glue the boat onto the paper, then add cotton wool for clouds and blue paper (shredded tissue paper or cellophane) for water.
- Storm paintings - provide an A4 sheet of paper and crayons and ask the children to draw a picture of Jesus and his disciples on a boat in a big storm. In bright yellow crayon across the top of each picture, leaders write the words, *Jesus stopped the storm! Matthew 8* When they have finished drawings, have children paint a black or dark blue wash over the picture.
- Rain paintings - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil titled, *Jesus said, 'Stop' and the wind and waves stopped! Matthew 8:23-27* Copy one per child on A3 paper. Provide painting aprons, blue paint and paint brushes. Show the children how to use the wooden end of the paint brush, dipped into the blue paint, to paint rain dots all over the page.

## Calming The Storm

*Matthew 8:23-27*

It had been a very, very long day.  
Jesus and his friends got into a boat.  
They began the long journey across the lake.  
Jesus was tired and soon fell asleep.  
All the people on the boat rocked gently, side-to-side, side-to-side.  
The wind began to blow.  
The boat went a little faster.  
The boat rocked a little faster, side-to-side, side-to-side.  
Dark clouds began to gather.  
A rumbling sound was heard.  
Suddenly there was a splash of rain.  
The wind began to blow harder.  
Another splash of rain fell.  
Then another, and another, and another, till gentle rain was steadily falling.  
Jesus' friends pulled their coats over their heads.  
The boat rocked faster, side-to-side, side-to-side.  
The sky was now black.  
The wind blew.  
The thunder roared.  
The rain fell harder.  
The wind made waves on the lake.  
The boat was tossed about.  
The people were tossed about, side-to-side, side-to-side.  
Jesus, still asleep, was tossed about side-to-side, side-to-side.  
The wind blew harder.  
The lightning flashed.  
The thunder roared.  
The rain fell harder.  
Big waves splashed into the boat.  
Jesus' friends were wet.  
Jesus' friends were a little scared.  
The wind blew harder.  
The lightning flashed brighter.  
The thunder roared louder.  
The rain fell harder, and harder, and harder.  
The boat began to fill with water.  
Jesus' friends were now afraid.

One of Jesus' friends cried out, "Jesus, Jesus. Don't you care if we drown?"

Jesus woke up.

The wind blew.

The lightning flashed.

The thunder roared.

The rain poured.

And Jesus said, "Quiet! Be still."

Everything stopped.

All was still.

Very, very still.

Jesus looked at his friends and said, "Why were you so afraid? I am here."

All of Jesus' friends looked at each other and said, "Who is Jesus? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Conclusion:

Jesus told the wind to stop and it did.

Jesus told the waves to stop and they did.

Jesus did what only God can do.

So who is Jesus?

Jesus is God's Son.

And just like the wind and the waves we must do what Jesus says.

## God's Generous King

*Matthew 14:13-21*

**Main Point** - Jesus gives us much more than we could ever need or want.

### Play Activities

- Imaginary play - provide chef aprons and hats, kitchen equipment (mixing bowls and spoons, oven, sink, play food...) for the children to pretend to cook.
- Fishing Game - provide a magnetic fishing rod and fish set for the children. **Note: these are commercially available.** You can also make a set using a string attached to a long cardboard roll with a magnet on the end of the string as a fishing rod and cardboard fish with large paper clips on each fish. **Note: never leave children alone with this equipment.** Make the following point as you play with the children: *In today's story there's a boy whose Mum packed him fish for lunch. Let's see if we can catch some fish to eat for lunch.*
- Jigsaw puzzles - provide jigsaw puzzles of fish and food.
- Water play - **Warning: never leave children alone with water. Empty water tray as soon as the activity is finished.** Provide a water tray and plastic fish for the children to play with. Plastic aprons will stop the children getting wet. Make the following point as you play with the children: *In today's story there's a boy whose Mum packed him fish for lunch. Let's see if we can catch some fish to eat for lunch.*

### Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).



## Drop the Fish

### Need:

- a toy fish

### Instructions:

- Play the game like drop the hanky.
- Seat children in a circle.
- Select child #1 to walk around the circle carrying a fish.
- Child #1 drops the fish behind a second child's (child #2) back.
- Child #2 picks up the fish and chases child #1 round the circle once.
- If child #2 catches child #1 before reaching the spot where child #2 sat, child #1 is in again.
- If not, child #2 has a turn of walking round the circle and dropping the fish.

### Conclusion:

- *In today's story there is a boy who has two small fish and five small loaves of bread.*
- *It's his lunch.*
- *But his small lunch is not going to feed just him.*
- *Jesus is going to make his lunch feed lots and lots and lots of people.*
- *Let's remember what happened.*

## Story Time

### Option 1

Use the script titled, *Jesus Feeds Five Thousand* (page 29) as a guide and retell the story in a sandpit. Mould a hill and place the crowd up and down all sides of the hill. Use plastic or wooden figurines for Jesus, disciples and crowd. Make a small basket from a matchbox and place fish and loaves of bread (can be small drawings) inside matchbox basket.

### Option 2

Use the script titled, *Jesus Feeds Five Thousand* (page 29) as a guide and retell the story using playdough. Mould a hill and people and place the crowd up and down the sides of the hill. Make a small basket and mould fish and loaves of bread to sit in the basket.

**Option 3**

Download the PowerPoint titled, *Jesus Feeds Five Thousand* (available if a *Kidswise Membership* has been taken out) and create a booklet from the PowerPoint pictures. Use the script titled, *Jesus Feeds Five Thousand* (page 29) as a guide and retell the story using the booklet.

**Memory Verse**

John 1:34 (CEV)

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise Membership*.

**Discussion (small groups)**

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- picnic basket, one per group
- plastic food to fill each basket

Seat children in a circle with props to one side.

Discuss what food they like to take on a picnic.

Ask the children to pull out food from the picnic basket and tell the group what it is.

Encourage the group to retell the story as a group.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *Jesus went to a place far away. Who followed him?*  
(a large crowd, lots and lots of people)
- *It started to get dark. What did the people need?*  
(food, they were hungry)
- *Jesus' friends wanted him to send the crowd away to go and buy food. What did Jesus say?*  
(he told them to give the crowd food)
- *Jesus' friends didn't have any food. But one little boy had food. What did he have?*  
(five small loaves of bread and two fish)

- *Jesus got the people to sit down in groups. He thanked God and told his friends to give the food to the people. What happened?*  
(Jesus made the food grow, everyone got fed)

**Conclusion:**

- *The people were hungry.*
- *There was only a little bit of food.*
- *But that was not a problem for Jesus.*
- *Jesus made the food grow and grow and grow.*
- *Everyone was full.*
- *No one was hungry.*
- *Jesus is amazing!*
- *He does what only God can do.*
- *And Jesus generously gives us every good thing.*
- *Because of Jesus we can be God's friend now and forever in heaven.*

**Prayer Time**

**Repeated Prayer**

*Father God, – thank you that – Jesus fed the people – and they weren't hungry anymore. – Thank you that – Jesus gives us everything. – Jesus is amazing! – Amen*

**Individual Prayer**

Encourage each child to pray his or her own prayer.

**Craft Activities**

- **Basket** - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil with the pattern for a basket. Copy on A4 cardboard and cut one basket per child. Provide craft material to decorate the basket (e.g. raffia) and staple basket together. Have children fill the basket with two fish (twist a pipe cleaner into a fish shape) and five small loaves (cotton wool balls).
- **Fish** - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil titled, *Jesus fed more than 5,000 people with only 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Only God can do that! Matthew 14:13-21* Make one copy per child on A4

paper. Have each child place one hand on the page and have a leader trace around the hand. Repeat. Add an eye and gills to both hand shapes and turn the hands into fish. Provide circle stickers, cellophane or kitchen foil for the children to decorate the fish.

- Crowd - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil titled, *Jesus fed all the people and everyone was full. Jesus is amazing! Matthew 14:13-21* Make one copy per child on A3 paper. Provide a variety of people shaped sponges (adult and child shapes). Have the children press the sponges into paint soaked kitchen sponges and print a crowd all over the page.

## **Jesus Feeds Five Thousand**

*Matthew 14:13-21*

Jesus made people better.  
No one could do what Jesus did.  
Jesus taught people about God.  
No one spoke the way Jesus did!  
So lots and lots and lots of people followed Jesus.  
One day, Jesus went to a place far away from any towns.  
Lots of people followed Jesus.  
Soon it was getting late.  
The sun began to go down.  
Jesus' friends said, "It's getting late. Send the people to the town to get food. There's no food out here!"  
But Jesus looked at his friends and said, "Don't send them away. You give them food."  
Jesus' friends looked at each other.  
They didn't have any food!  
They looked around and found a small boy.  
The small boy had five small loaves and two fish.  
Jesus told the people to sit down in groups.  
So the people sat down in groups - large groups.  
There were lots and lots and lots of people!  
They were all hungry!  
Jesus thanked God for the food then gave the fish and bread to his friends.  
Jesus' friends began to give the bread and fish to the people.  
Jesus made the food grow and grow and grow.  
They gave out more and more and more bread and fish.  
They gave out bread and fish until every man, woman and child in the crowd had eaten.  
Everyone was full.  
No one was hungry any more.

Conclusion:

Jesus made five small loaves and two fish feed lots and lots and lots of people and everyone was full. No one was hungry.  
Jesus gives us more than we could ever imagine.  
How amazing is Jesus!

## God's Trustworthy King

*Matthew 14:22-36*

**Main Point** - Jesus is God's Son and we can trust him.

### Play Activities

- Imaginary play - provide a blue piece of material cut into the shape of a lake. Provide boats and people for the children to play with on the lake.
- Imaginary play - provide a large cardboard box to use as a boat. Place the boat on a blue tarpaulin. Have children take turns in being in the boat and making waves.
- Boat picture books and jigsaw puzzles - provide picture books and jigsaw puzzles of boats for children to enjoy.
- Water play - provide a water tray and a variety of things that float and sink. Make the following point as you play with the children: *things sink because they're heavy and we sink when we go into deep water.* **Warning: never leave children alone with water. Empty water tray as soon as the children have finished.**

### Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of *Kidswise*).

### Float or Sink

Need:

- a large, clear perspex fish bowl (not glass)
- a variety of things that float or sink (e.g. cork, pencil, flower, feather, stone, coin, block...)

Instructions:

- Hold up an object and ask the children to predict whether the object will float or sink.

Conclusion:

- *Can people walk on the top of water?*
- *No. If we go into water, we sink.*
- *We have to swim really hard to keep our head above the water.*
- *But there is one person who can walk across the top of water.*
- *He can do this because he made the water.*
- *Let's see who can walk across the top of water.*

**Warning: never leave children alone with water. Empty water tray as soon as the children have finished.**

## Story Time

### *Option 1*

Use the script titled, *Jesus Walks on Water* (page 35) as a guide and the following props to retell the story:

- large, clear perspex fish bowl full of water (colour it blue)
- plastic boat
- plastic figurines for Jesus and Peter

**Note: be sure to put plastic on the floor in case the water overflows.**

### *Option 2*

Use the script titled, *Jesus Walks on Water* (page 35) and the following props to retell the story.

Props:

- material lake
- boat
- figurines for Jesus and disciples
- large cushion for the mountain

### *Option 3*

Download the PowerPoint titled, *Doubt In Jesus* (available if a *Kidswise Membership* has been taken out) and create a booklet from the PowerPoint pictures. Use the script titled, *Jesus Feeds Five Thousand* (page 35) as a guide and retell the story using the booklet.

**Memory Verse**

John 1:34 (CEV)

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

**Discussion (small groups)**

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- blue material or a sheet of blue cellophane, one per group
- boat plus two figurines (Jesus and Peter), one set per group

Seat children in a circle with blue material/cellophane in centre. Place boat and figurines on the material/cellophane and ask the children to hold the edge of it. Encourage the group to retell the story and as they do, create waves for the boat until it's really being tossed about. Make it still when leader places figurines on the boat. You may like to repeat this a number of times as a group, encouraging the children to **stop still** all at once.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *Jesus told his followers to get into the boat and go across the lake. The sun went down and it was very dark. They saw something that made them very afraid. What did they see?*  
(Jesus walking on the water)
- *Peter got very excited and wanted to walk on the water to Jesus. Why did Peter start to sink?*  
(he looked at the wind and waves, he became afraid)
- *Peter stopped trusting Jesus. He was sinking! But Jesus saved him. What happened when Jesus stepped into the boat?*  
(the wind and waves stopped)
- *What did the people on the boat say?*  
(Jesus is God's Son)

Conclusion:

- *Jesus' friends were amazed.*



- *No one can walk on water!*
- *Except Jesus!*
- *Jesus can walk on water because Jesus is God.*
- *Jesus is the Son of God and we can trust him.*
- *Jesus will never let us down.*

## Prayer Time

### Repeated Prayer

*Father God, – Jesus walked on water – because he is God. – Help us – not to be like Peter. – Help us – to trust in Jesus, – your Son. – Amen*

### Individual Prayer

Encourage each child to pray his or her own prayer.

## Craft Activities

- Lake picture - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil that has a picture of a lake with waves and the title, *Jesus walked on the water. Jesus is the Son of God and we can trust him. Matthew 14:22-36* Make one copy per child on A4 paper. Provide blue cellophane for the children to glue on the water. Use a foam shape or playdough cutter in the shape of a human to print Jesus walking on the water.
- Feet printing - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil titled, *Jesus told Peter to come but Peter didn't trust Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God and we can trust him. Matthew 14:22-36* Make one copy per child on blue A3 paper. Provide feet shaped sponges. Have children press the feet shapes into a black paint soaked sponge and print feet all over the page.
- Peter sinking - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil that has a picture of waves across the top with the title, *Peter saw the wind. Peter got scared and began to sink. Jesus saved him. Matthew 14:22-36* Make one copy per child on A4 cardboard. Provide a variety of blue paper and blue material cut into strips, for the children to glue across the page to create a stormy lake. Find the stencil full of Peters. Copy and cut one Peter per child

from cardboard. Attach each Peter to a paddle pop stick. Show the children how to walk Peter across the top of the waves, get scared and then begin to sink under the waves and come up again when rescued by Jesus.

## **Jesus Walks on Water**

*Matthew 14:22-36*

Last week we heard how Jesus fed lots and lots and lots of people with just five bread rolls and two fish.

After Jesus had fed all the people, Jesus told his friends to get into a boat and go across the lake.

Jesus didn't go with them.

He went up onto a mountain and talked to God, his Father.

The sun began to go down.

A wind began to blow across the lake.

The wind made waves on the lake.

The boat began to rock from side-to-side, side-to-side.

Jesus' friends were rocked about in the boat, side-to-side, side-to-side.

It was soon dark.

Jesus' friends could hardly see a thing.

Suddenly they saw someone coming towards them.

Walking on the water!

Jesus' friends were afraid and they cried out in fear!

Then the person spoke.

It was Jesus!

Jesus was walking on the water.

Jesus said, "Don't be afraid! It's me!"

One of Jesus' friends, Peter was so excited he asked if he could walk on the water too.

Jesus told him to come.

But when Peter stepped onto the water, he saw the waves crash about him.

Peter got scared and began to sink!

Peter cried out, "Save me!"

Jesus reached out his hand and grabbed Peter.

Jesus looked at Peter and said, "Why didn't you trust me?"

As soon as Jesus stepped into the boat the wind stopped and the lake was still.

All the people in the boat said, "Jesus, you are the Son of God!"

Conclusion:

Peter stopped trusting Jesus and he began to sink.

Children, Jesus is God's Son and we can trust him.

He will never let us down.

## The King Who Loves Kids

*Matthew 19:13-15*

**Main Point** - Children who come to Jesus are precious members of his family.

### Imaginary Play

- Felt pictures: provide felt shapes of children from all over the world for the children to create pictures with. As the children create their pictures, talk to them about how precious every child who loves Jesus is to him.
- Imaginary play: provide plastic figurines of children from all over the world as well as wooden blocks/trees to create different cities/countries. Make the following point as you play with the children: *talk to them about how precious every child who loves Jesus is to him.*
- Dress ups: provide international dress up clothes and a mirror for the children to have a look at themselves.
- Jigsaw puzzles: provide jigsaws of children from different nationalities for the children to play with.

### Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of *Kidswise*).

### Too Busy Skits

Leaders perform the following skits:

- A Mum cooking a special dinner for visitors. Child asks her for help with homework. Mum says that she's too busy and that's she's got something really important that she has to do.
- A Dad is getting ready for work (trying to do his tie), child asks for help in tying up shoes. Dad is too busy and rushes

off to work.

Conclusion:

- *Sometimes our Mums and Dads are busy doing important things.*
- *We know that they love us, but sometimes we can get hurt because they are too busy to stop and listen to us.*
- *Jesus is very, very busy doing very important things.*
- *But Jesus is never too busy for children.*

## Story Time

### Option 1

Set up the following scenes and move figurines (Jesus, sick people, angry Pharisees, disciples and group of children) from scene to scene:

- mountain scene
- town scene
- lake with a boat

Retell the story using the script titled, *Jesus And The Little Children* (page 40) as a guide and props listed above.

### Option 2

Download the PowerPoint titled, *Jesus And The Little Children* (available if a *Kidswise Membership* has been taken out) and create a booklet from the PowerPoint pictures. Use the script titled, *Jesus And The Little Children* (page 40) as a guide and retell the story using the booklet.

## Memory Verse

John 1:34 (CEV)

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise Membership*.

## Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group to retell the story using the following props:

- pictures of families (can be the families of the children in your group, or families cut from magazines)

Seat children in a circle. Ask each child to select a picture and tell

the group about that picture: in particular how children are special members of each family (they are loved and are important). Place the pictures on the ground in the centre of the circle in groups.

Encourage the group to retell the story.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *Jesus was busy doing very important things. See how many things you can remember that Jesus did.*  
(teaching people how to become God's friend, making blind people see, saving people from storms...)
- *Children are important and special to busy Jesus. What did Jesus do when the children came to see him?*  
(he stopped what he was doing and spent time with them, he prayed for them, they were special to him)
- *Children who come to Jesus belong to his family. How does Jesus feel about the children in his family?*

Conclusion:

- *No matter how small or young you are, if you love the Lord Jesus then you are part of God's family.*
- *And you are very special to him.*
- *At church we need to make sure that we make everyone feel special because we are all special to Jesus.*

## Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

*Father God, – thank you so much – that each one of us is precious to you. – Thank you that Jesus knows us – and died for us. – Please help us – to help other children know – how precious they are to you. – Amen*

Individual Prayer

Ask children to pray for the person on their right.

**Craft Activities**

- Sponge printing: purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil with the title, *Jesus welcomed and loved the little children. Children who come to Jesus are precious members of his family. Matthew 19:13-15*  
Option #1 - copy one per child on A3 white paper. Provide sponge shapes of children and a large adult male (if possible in Bible times outfit). Provide sponges soaked in paint for the children to press the sponge shapes into and have them print multiple children around the adult male (Jesus). Option #2 - copy one per child on A3 either blue or green coloured paper. Cut an A3 white sheet of paper into thirds (across landscape). Fold each third in concertina form. Cut a body shape from each third so that the arms and legs go to the edge of the folded paper. Open up to reveal a string of body shapes all holding arms. Fold and cut one string of body shapes per child. Glue a string of people holding hands onto page and decorate the picture with collage material.
- Sticker picture: purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil with the title, *Jesus welcomed and loved the little children. Children who come to Jesus are precious members of his family. Matthew 19:13-15*  
Make one copy per child on A4 paper. Provide smiley stamps (either ink filled stamps or stickers) for children to stick/print all over the page. Provide pens or pencils for the children to add stick figure bodies to each smiley face. Encourage the children to add a tall figure for Jesus at the centre of the picture.

## **Jesus And The Little Children**

*Matthew 19:13-15*

When Jesus lived on earth, he was a very, very busy person.  
Lots of people wanted to see Jesus do amazing things.  
Lots of people wanted to hear Jesus teach about God and his Kingdom.

Jesus was very busy.

He spent time making sick people well.

He made people who couldn't walk, walk.

He made people who couldn't see, see.

He made people who couldn't hear, hear.

He even made dead people come back to life again.

Jesus was very busy.

Jesus also stopped storms.

When Jesus spoke, the wind and waves stopped.

And when Jesus spoke, the leaders of God's temple listened.

They didn't like what Jesus said and they'd come to try and argue with him.

Jesus was very, very busy!

Jesus' followers, the disciples, knew that Jesus was busy doing very important things.

One day, some people were bringing their little children to Jesus, so that he could pray for them.

But Jesus' friends didn't like this.

They thought Jesus was too busy for little children.

So they sent them away.

But Jesus saw what they were doing and said, "Let the children come. Don't send them away. Little children belong in God's big Kingdom!"

Jesus placed his hands on the children.

Jesus prayed for the children and loved them.

Conclusion:

Jesus was very busy doing very important things.

But Jesus made time to see the little children.

He always has time for children.

He loves children very much. He loves you very much.

You know you don't have to grow up to be important to Jesus.

Because to Jesus, each and every one of you is very, very precious!



## God's King Betrayed

*Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16, 20-25, 47-56; 27:3-10 Luke 22:1-6 John 12:4-6*

**Main Point** - People do bad things but God uses these bad things to make good things happen.

### Play Activities

- Imaginary play: set up a shop and have dress ups (include handbags and money) for the children to dress up and go shopping.
- Felt pictures: set out felt boards with figures and objects (e.g. boats, fish, buildings, roads...) so that children can create pictures of some of the things Jesus' friends saw Jesus do.
- Dress ups: set out King and Queen dress ups. Make the following point as you play with the children: *Jesus is God's King. Bad things happened to God's King but it was all part of his plan to save us.*

### Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

### Coin Toss

Need:

- basket
- coins

Instructions:

- Line children up and ask them to toss the coin and see if they can get it into the basket.
- Repeat a number of times.

Conclusion:

- *God gives us money to buy things.*
- *But one of Jesus' friends loved money more than Jesus.*
- *He did a bad thing to Jesus because he wanted money.*

- *Let's see what he did.*

## Story Time

### Option 1

Download the PowerPoint titled, *Judas' Betrayal* (available if a *Kidswise Membership* has been taken out) and create a booklet from the PowerPoint pictures. Use the script titled, *Judas Betrays God's King* (page 45) as a guide and retell the story using the booklet.

### Option 2

Use the script titled, *Judas Betrays God's King* (page 45) and retell the story of Judas. Draw a series of large chalk drawings as you retell the story:

Picture 1: draw Judas, add moneybag, add eyes looking at money bag, add his hand going into moneybag, add evil expression

Picture 2: draw Judas and Priests, add moneybag being passed between them, add smile to Judas' face

Picture 3: draw Jesus praying, add Judas kissing Jesus

Picture 2 repeated: add arrow across top of moneybag pointing from Judas to Priests (i.e. Judas wanting to give it back), change Judas' expression to sad

## Memory Verse

John 1:34 (CEV)

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise Membership*.

## Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group to retell the story using the following props:

- paper plate with a happy face on one side and a sad face on the other side

Seat children in a circle.

Begin by asking the children to say where the following things are good things (show happy face) or bad things (show sad face):

- *invited to a birthday party*
- *get sick*
- *friends come over to play*

- *someone punches you*
- *Mum cooks your favourite food*
- *your tooth hurts*

Encourage the group to retell the story about the bad things that happened to Jesus and as they do, ask if it's a good thing or a bad thing that's happened and hand them the paper plate to turn the face to the appropriate side.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *What did Judas decide to do? Were they good or bad things?*  
(tell the leaders where they could find Jesus, showed the men where to find Jesus, kissed Jesus so the men could see who was Jesus in the dark)
- *Why did Judas do it?*  
(he loved money more than Jesus, he used to take money from the bag, he was a thief)

Conclusion:

- *God used the bad thing Judas did to make a good thing happen.*
- *The good thing is that Jesus died.*
- *This is a good thing because now we can be saved and be God's friends.*

## Prayer Time

Repeated Payer

*Thank you God, – that even though – bad things happen, – you use those bad things – for our good. – Thank you that you used – the bad thing Judas did – to save us. – Amen.*

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to thank God for letting Jesus die on the cross for them.

## Craft Activities

- Moneybag: purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil of a moneybag with the title, *Judas did a bad thing. He told the leaders where to find Jesus so he could get money for himself. God used this bad thing to save us. Matthew 26, Luke 22* Cut kitchen foil into circles for the children to glue onto the moneybag for coins.
- Jesus' friends: purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil with the title, *One of Jesus' friends, Judas, turned against him and it was all part of God's plan to save us. Matthew 26, Luke 22* Copy one per child on A3 paper. Provide people shaped stamps or sponges for the children to print Jesus and his twelve friends. Then ask the children to choose one of the friends and draw a circle around him.

## **Judas Betrays God's King**

*Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16, 20-25, 47-56; 27:3-10 Luke 22:1-6 John 12:4-6*

Jesus had twelve friends and for three years they had followed Jesus.

They saw Jesus do amazing things.

Things that only God could do.

They heard him say amazing things.

But sometimes they didn't understand.

You see, sometimes Jesus would say some strange things.

"One of my friends will become my enemy. Then I will be arrested.

People will hit me and spit on me. Then I will die. But I won't stay dead."

The disciples didn't understand what Jesus was talking about.

But Jesus knew.

Jesus knew that bad things would happen to him first, so then good things would happen.

One of Jesus' friends was named Judas.

Now Judas' job was to look after the money.

But Judas would take money that was not his.

Judas was a thief.

(pause)

Judas went to the leaders of God's Temple.

Judas wanted to know how much money they'd give him if he told them where to find Jesus.

The leaders gave Judas thirty silver coins!

Judas took the money, went back to Jesus and waited.

One night, Judas took men with swords and showed them where Jesus was.

It was dark, so Judas kissed Jesus to show the men who Jesus was.

The men arrested Jesus and took him away.

The next morning Judas found out that they were going to kill

Jesus and Judas was sorry for what he'd done.

He went to the leaders and begged them to take the money back.

But they would not.

Conclusion:

Judas did a bad thing.

He told them where to find Jesus.

Judas knew what he'd done was bad.

But God used this bad thing for good.

God used this bad thing to save us.

## God's Saving King

*Matthew 1:18-25*

**Main Point** - Jesus' name means God saves. His name tells us what he came to do - save us.

### Play Activities

- Felt boards - provide felt shapes (i.e. man, woman, angel, manger, sheep, cows) that allow the children to recreate the story.
- Dress ups - provide Bible Time dress up clothes and props (i.e. manger, sheep, doll) that allow the children to retell the birth of Jesus.
- Nativity set - provide a wooden nativity set for the children to set up and retell the story of Jesus' birth.
- Storybook corner - lay out several books about the birth of Jesus for the children to look through.
- Imaginary play - provide plastic figurines (people and animals), a manger (can be made from a matchbox) and stable (can be made from blocks) to recreate Jesus' birth scene.

### Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

### Can You Remember?

Need:

- Nativity set (Mary, Joseph, angel, shepherds, wise men, baby Jesus)

Instructions:

- Place Nativity set where all the children can see.
- Talk about each figure (Mary, Joseph, angel, shepherds,

wise men, baby Jesus) and make sure the children know who is who.

- Ask children to close their eyes. Remove one figure or set of same figures (i.e. all wise men, or all shepherds).
- Children have to open their eyes and say who is missing.

Conclusion:

- *God became a baby and his name was Jesus.*
- *But Mary and Joseph didn't give him his name.*
- *God did.*
- *Let's hear how it all happened.*

## Story Time

### Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Birth of the Saviour* (pages 50-51) as a guide. Retell the story as you draw the following illustrations:

Picture 1: Mary, add growing tummy.

Picture 2: Joseph, add frowning expression.

Picture 3: Joseph asleep, add Z's to indicate sleep, add angel.

Picture 4: Joseph and Mary, add holding hands, add baby in Mary's other arm, add the following words across the top of the picture: *Jesus, which means God saves.*

### Option 2

Use the script titled, *The Birth of the Saviour* (pages 50-51) as a guide. Retell the story using large playdough figures (i.e. can change facial expressions on playdough figures and make Mary's tummy grow, then disappear).

### Option 3

Download the PowerPoint titled, *The Birth of the Saviour* (available if a *Kidswise Membership* has been taken out) and create a booklet from the PowerPoint pictures. Use the script titled, *The Birth of the Saviour* (pages 50-51) as a guide and retell the story using the booklet.

## Memory Verse

John 1:34 (CEV)

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise Membership*.

**Discussion (small groups)**

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- a name book (to find out the meaning of children's names in the group)
- Mary, Joseph, angel, baby figurines, manger (can all be home made)

Seat children in a circle with props to one side.

Use name books to find out the meaning of children's names in the group.

Encourage the group to retell the story and as they do, hand them the appropriate props to place in the centre of the group.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *Who gave Jesus his name?*  
(God did)
- *God gave him a special name. His name tells us what Jesus came to earth to do. What does Jesus' name mean?*  
(God saves)

Conclusion:

- *Jesus' name reminds us that we all need someone to save us.*
- *We need someone to save us from the punishment we all deserve.*
- *So God sent Jesus to save us.*

**Prayer Time**

Repeated Prayer

*Dear God, – thank you that – Jesus became a baby. – Thank you for sending Jesus – to save us. – Amen*

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to thank God for sending Jesus to save them.



**Craft Activities**

- Names - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil titled, *My name is ..... My name means ..... God gave Jesus his name. Jesus means 'God saves'. Matthew 1:18-25* Make one copy per child on A4 paper. Look up each child's name in a name book to find the meaning of that name. Write the child's name and the name's meaning in the space provided. In the middle of the page in bubble writing, draw the outline of the child's name. Provide brushes and either paint or glue for the children to cover the name. If using glue, sprinkle glitter/confetti over the names. Shake off excess and vacuum. *Talk to the children about how God gave Jesus his name and his name is special because it means God saves.*
- Christmas Collage - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil of labels that read, *Jesus is the Saviour of the world. John 4:42* Copy and cut one label per child. Provide Christmas wrapping paper (torn into small pieces), old Christmas cards, tinsel, etc. for the children to glue on an A4 sheet of paper. When collage is finished children paste the label in the centre.
- Manger scene - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil that has a picture of a manger and the title, *God gave Jesus his name. Jesus means 'God saves'. Matthew 1:18-25* Make one copy per child on A4 cardboard. Provide wood glue and craft matchsticks for the children to decorate the manger. Provide raffia to glue on the top of the manger for hay.

## **The Birth of the Saviour**

*Matthew 1:18-25*

I'll need your help as I tell this story.

Every time you hear, "You will call him Jesus, which means, God saves!"... you do this action (action = hold one arm up in the air like superman).

A long time ago there was a lady called Mary.

She loved God and God loved her.

Now Mary had a special friend.

His name was Joseph.

Mary and Joseph were going to get married to each other.

But they weren't married yet!

Then something very special happened.

Before Mary and Joseph were married, God put a baby in Mary's tummy.

Joseph was very surprised.

Joseph was also very upset.

He did not know that God had put the baby in Mary's tummy.

So Joseph decided not to marry Mary.

(pause)

That night, while Joseph was asleep, God sent a special messenger to Joseph.

The special messenger said, "Joseph, marry Mary. God has put this baby in Mary's tummy. She is going to have a baby boy. God wants you to call him Jesus, which means, "God saves." (action = hold one arm up in the air like superman).

Joseph woke up.

He scratched his head.

He thought about what God's messenger had said.

Umm, call him Jesus, which means...

"God saves." (action = hold one arm up in the air like superman).

So Joseph did exactly what God had said.

He married Mary and Mary had God's baby.

They called him Jesus, which means... "God saves." (action = hold one arm up in the air like superman).

Conclusion:

When a baby is born the Mum and Dad choose a name for the baby.

But long, long ago, one baby was given his name by God.

The name God gave this baby tells us why this baby is so special.

God gave Jesus his name.

Jesus' name helps us to understand why God sent Jesus.

Jesus' name reminds us that we need someone to save us.

So God sent Jesus.

God gave him the name Jesus, which means... "God saves."

(action = hold one arm up in the air like superman).

## God's Unstoppable King

Matthew 2

**Main Point** - God's plan to make Jesus King can't be stopped.

### Play Activities

- Imaginary play - provide a floor mat with a winding road, duplo to build Jerusalem and Bethlehem, wooden figurines (wise men, Herod, Joseph, Mary and Jesus as a young child) for the children to play with. Make the following point as you play with the children: *when Jesus was little a King tried to kill him so Mary and Joseph had to run away. Let's pretend to run away from the angry King along our road.*
- Dress ups - provide Bible Time dress up clothes (wise men, Herod, Mary and Joseph) and props (gifts) for the children to play with. Make the following point as you play with the children: *when Jesus was little a King tried to kill him so Mary and Joseph had to run away. Let's pretend to run away from the angry King along our road.*
- Nativity set - provide a wooden nativity set for the children to set up and retell the story of Jesus' birth.
- Playdough - provide star cutters for the children to make stars.

### Cat 'n Mouse

Need: open space

Instructions:

- Select one child to be the cat and one child to be the mouse.
- The rest of the children form a circle.
- Place the mouse in the centre of the circle and the cat on the outside of the circle.
- Ask the children to protect the mouse from the cat by holding their hands up and down as the mouse moves in and out of the circle.
- When the mouse is caught (or after a suitable length of time), substitute other children as the cat and mouse.

**Conclusion:**

- *Our plan was to protect our mouse from the cat.*
- *Sometimes we did protect the mouse.*
- *Sometimes we didn't.*
- *God had a plan to protect his special child King.*
- *And nothing could stop God from protecting his child King.*

**Singing**

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

**Story Time***Option 1*

Use the script titled, *God's Plan Can't Be Stopped* (pages 57-58) and the following series of chalk drawings to retell Matthew 2:

Picture 1: Wise men riding on camels

Picture 2: King Herod

Picture 3: Star, add stable

Picture 4: Soldiers

*Option 2*

Use the script titled, *God's Plan Can't Be Stopped* (pages 57-58) as a guide and the objects listed below to retell Matthew 2.

**Objects:**

- wooden or plastic figurines (for King Herod, Wise men, Mary, Joseph, soldiers)
- star
- manger
- baby doll
- swords

You may like to seat the children in a circle and use a mat with a winding road on it as you tell the story.

**Discussion (small groups)**

**Aim:** as a group retell the story using the following props:

- wrap up small gifts for each child in a parcel (one gift inside each layer of wrapping), one parcel per group

Seat children in a circle.

Encourage the group to retell the story. To encourage all children to retell part of the story play *Pass the Parcel*. A child gets to unwrap a gift after they have told part of the story.

Also, remind the children that the wise men brought expensive gifts because Jesus is a King.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *Who were the wise men looking for?*  
(a child King, Jesus)
- *How did they know where to find the child King?*  
(a star led the way)
- *What did the wise men do when they found King Jesus?*  
(they treated him as King, showed their love for him by giving presents)
- *When King Herod heard about the child King, what did he plan to do?*  
(he planned to kill the child)
- *What did God do to stop Herod's plan?*  
(he warned the wise men in a dream, they went home a different way)
- *Can a powerful King like Herod stop God's plan?*  
(no)

Conclusion:

- *Herod wanted to kill the child King.*
- *But God had other plans.*
- *God's King would not be killed.*
- *Jesus is God's amazing King.*
- *Nothing will stop Jesus from being King.*
- *Let's thank God that nothing will ever stop Jesus being the one true King.*

## Prayer Time

### Repeated Prayer

*Dear Heavenly Father, – thank you that – your plan was to make Jesus King. – Thank you that your plans – can never be stopped. – Amen*

### Individual Prayers

Thank God for Jesus the King.

## Memory Verse

John 1:34 (CEV)

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

## Craft Activities

- Stop sign - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil that has a picture of a stop sign with the words, *God's plan to make Jesus King can't be stopped*, in the centre of the stop sign. Copy one per child on cardboard. Cut out each stop sign. Provide red cellophane for the children to decorate the stop sign, making sure the words are still visible. Attach it to a paddle pop stick using masking tape.
- Gifts - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil that has a picture of gifts and the title, *The wise men brought gifts to King Jesus. Matthew 2*. Make one copy per child. Provide torn bits of wrapping paper and ribbon for the children to decorate the gifts.
- Star - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 4*. Find the stencil of a star with the words, *The wise men followed the star to find King Jesus*. Copy and cut one star per child on cardboard. Punch a hole at the top of each star. Decorate the star with collage material. Tie a ribbon through the top of the star to hang.
- Crowns - cut one crown per child from cardboard. Write the words, *Jesus Is The King* on each crown. Provide craft

material for children to decorate the crowns.



## **God's Plan Can't Be Stopped**

*Matthew 2*

I need your help to tell today's story.

Every time you hear me say the word, *NOTHING* I want you to shake your head.

And every time you hear me say the word, *STOP!* I want you to put your hand up like this (hold hand in *stop* position).

Let's have a practice.

Now to our story.

Have you ever planned to go to the beach but it rained?

Have you ever tried to make a sand castle but your younger brother knocked it down?

Have you ever planned to go to a party but got sick?

We make great plans, but something comes and **STOPS** (hold hands up) our plan.

That never happens to God!

Because...

**NOTHING** can **STOP** God's plan!

God's plan is Jesus.

And...

**NOTHING** can **STOP** God's plan!

But there was one person who didn't like God's plan.

His name was King Herod.

Wise men came to see King Herod.

They were looking for a King.

But they weren't looking for King Herod.

They were looking for a young King.

A child King who God promised would be born in Bethlehem.

And remember...

**NOTHING** can **STOP** God's plan!

King Herod didn't like what he heard!

He was the only King!

He asked the wise men to tell him when they found the child king.

He was going to get rid of this child King!

But...

**NOTHING** can **STOP** God's plan!

The wise men followed a star.

The star led the wise men to Bethlehem.

The star led them to Jesus, the young King.

The wise men gave King Jesus gifts.

The wise men worshipped King Jesus.  
Then God warned the wise men about Herod's plan because...  
NOTHING can STOP God's plan!  
The wise men went home a different way.  
King Herod became angry!  
He sent his soldiers to kill all the young boys in Bethlehem.  
But...  
NOTHING can STOP God's plan!  
An angel warned Joseph about King Herod's evil plan.  
So Mary and Joseph took young King Jesus and went to Egypt.  
They left before the soldiers arrived.  
Jesus was safe.  
King Herod's plan had failed.  
Because...  
NOTHING can STOP God's plan!

Conclusion:  
Children, God's plan is Jesus.  
Herod tried to get rid of Jesus.  
But Herod failed.  
Jesus is the one true King.  
God's plan to make Jesus King will never fail.