

# The Story of The Bible: Part 2

This is a resource with 12 sessions to provide a background and understanding to the overarching story through the Bible to help young people to understand and contextualise scripture.

- Session 1 - Introduction
- Session 2 - Law and DisOrder?
- Session 3 - An Israelite History
- Session 4 - Poetic License
- Session 5 - Prophets: major key?
- Session 6 - Prophets: minor key?
- Session 7 - Life and Times of Jesus
- Session 8 - A Church History
- Session 9 - Dear Church, from Paul
- Session 10 - Dear you, from Paul
- Session 11 - Dear all, from me
- Session 12 - All Together Now

The resource will provide a range of optional activities and teaching tools for each session. Please tailor this to suit your group and the young people attending. Many of the ideas will be repeated or continued through the 12 week sessions including craft, scripture memorisation and discussion questions.

If you would like any further resources developed or have any questions, please contact Christina on [christinabaille@connordiocese.org](mailto:christinabaille@connordiocese.org)

# The Story of The Bible

## Session 7: Life and Times of Jesus

**The Purpose of the Session:** is to display the importance of Jesus' life, death and resurrection throughout the whole of the Scriptures. There is a wealth of themes which could be covered in this session so we have decided to focus on two themes: the Incarnation of Jesus (his family and birth) and through his death Jesus acting as our High Priest.

### Games

**Bodyguard** - 8+ players. You need one small dodgeball or soft football. Get everyone gathered in a circle. Pick two people to start the game, one to be the bodyguard & one to be the leader. The bodyguard's job is to protect the leader. The rest of the group have to try and get the ball to hit the leader. Get the young people to work together to get the leader. If you hit the leader, you become the bodyguard & the previous bodyguard becomes the leader. The leader who got hit rejoins the circle.

**The Pringles Game** - 4+ players. What do you need: A pringles tube!

1. Divide your young people and leaders into two teams. Number each team member 1, 2, 3 until each person has a number and a matching number on the other team.
2. Ask your young people to sit along the side of the hall. Set up your pringles tube in the middle of the hall and set up the starting point as far away as possible.
3. When their number is called, the team member will run to an alternate end of the hall, to their starting position, so players are facing each other. The team member takes off their shoes and throws them at the pringles tube. The first person to knock it over wins!
4. If the team member has thrown both of their shoes, they can run and collect them and throw them again. This can keep going for both team representatives until someone knocks over the Pringles tube.

### Kahoot:

This session's Kahoot is available here: [play.kahoot.it/#/k/45aa6402-bf02-45cf-a678-2befbec20a4d](https://play.kahoot.it/#/k/45aa6402-bf02-45cf-a678-2befbec20a4d) or if you search for 'The Story of the Bible: Session 7'

### Seeing Jesus Activity

Using what you have made so far, why not spend the time recapping about all the connections you've identified so far?



# The Story of The Bible

## Session 7: Life and Times of Jesus

### Memorising Scripture:

How about adding to your memorised verses from week 1 (John 1v1-2), and this week learn John 1v1-5?



### Craft Project:

Keep going with your project!



### Prayer Activity:

Why not spend some time thinking about why it matters that Jesus lived and died. You could create some prayer stations or powerpoint slides to guide the young people through in their prayers.



1. Jesus took our punishment: thank you Jesus
2. Jesus gives us righteousness: we praise you Jesus
3. Jesus conquered death for us: let me live with joy in your resurrection
4. Jesus gives us a perfect example of living: let me live to glorify God
5. Jesus came as a human to earth: we love you Jesus



### Teaching information:

For more information on some of the themes in the teaching you might want to read through some of the articles from Desiring God:

[www.desiringgod.org/messages/our-high-priest-is-the-son-of-god-perfect-forever](http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/our-high-priest-is-the-son-of-god-perfect-forever)

[www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-christ-fulfilled-and-ended-the-old-testament-regime](http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-christ-fulfilled-and-ended-the-old-testament-regime)

### Discussion Questions:

Discuss the regular questions to explore the gospels.



### Activity:

Why not take the opportunity to look at Jesus fulfilling scripture? You could use the information in this website: <https://www.thoughtco.com/prophecies-of-jesus-fulfilled-700159>. It displays the Old Testament scripture & New Testament fulfilment. You could get the young people to look up the OT or NT passages, write out the prophecy itself and match them with the other reference in teams. There is also a copy of the pamphlet, 100 prophecies fulfilled by Jesus, referred to in this article available from the Diocesan Youth Officer.





# The Story of The Bible

## Session 7: Life and Times of Jesus

### Teaching:

Jesus. Wow. A name we know so well. We all have opinions on Him, whether it be that he was a great moral teacher, the Saviour himself or maybe you think he never existed at all. The Christian church believe that Jesus, the man who lived, is the centre of all the scriptures! The whole Bible, every chapter and verse points to Jesus Christ. Graeme Goldsworthy, a theologian, says, "The meaning of all the Scriptures is unlocked by the death and resurrection of Jesus" (Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture, 54).



We see this in the scripture passage, Luke 24, that Jesus once he rose from the dead walked with his followers and explained how the Bible points to Himself. It says "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). Imagine being part of that conversation. The risen Jesus is beside us and explaining how all the scriptures we grew up learning are about Him. Therefore as we read the Bible, we can start to ask questions from this perspective. Each time you sit down with your Bible, imagine you are one of the disciples walking back with Jesus to Emmaus and piecing together what Jesus might say in this passage. This could be a great way to study your Bible!

So firstly we see that Jesus is the centre of all the scriptures. We want to consider two specific themes which run throughout the Bible which help us understand how the Bible points to Jesus and what it means for us.

### JESUS INCARNATION & FAMILY

One of the great struggles in our Bible reading is genealogies - this means the big lists of names... such and such begat such and such who was the mother of so and so. You know! You might have politely said no if your rector asked you to read a passage like this in your parish as you didn't want to mispronounce a name! So why do you think the Biblical writers have included these family histories in the Bible?

Jesus was born as a human person, who was part of a family. Jesus was part of a family line which came from God's chosen people, all the way back from the beginning of the Bible. This shows God keeps his promises because he told his people, through Abraham, that they would be the people who hold the everlasting promise for generations to come. By allowing his own son to come as a human person to earth to live, through this family line, offers freedom for God's people & let's us know that Jesus experienced life as we do.

# The Story of The Bible

## Session 7: Life and Times of Jesus

Teaching continued:

### JESUS AS HIGH PRIEST IN HIS DEATH

Firstly let us read together, Hebrews 4:14-16.

So, here in Hebrews, we read that Jesus is our great high priest. That might be a familiar phrase to you or you may never have heard Jesus described in this way! To understand what it means for us, we need to consider what a High Priest is.

High Priests were those in the early community of God's chosen people who were responsible for leading the people in their spiritual devotion to God. They were responsible for making the offerings on behalf of the people to express that they felt sorry to God. These were outlined in the commandments given to God's people through the Old Testament, they sacrificed animals or gave flour. So why don't we still sacrifice animals to show our devotion and love for God?

For us, Jesus offered the ultimate offering against sin through living a perfect life and dying to give righteousness (right standing) to all who believe. John Piper said, "The law was kept perfectly by Christ. And all its penalties against God's sinful people were poured out on Christ. Therefore, the law is now manifestly not the path to righteousness; Christ is. The ultimate goal of the law is that we would look to Christ, not law-keeping, for our righteousness." So now our High Priest is Jesus who advocates on our behalf, has made our once and for all sacrifice and will continue through his life, death and resurrection to point us towards living a life that glorifies God. How freeing it is for us as general people of God!! We don't need to rely on a priest to connect us to God through sacrifices, we can connect through Jesus and what he has already accomplished!

### Videos:

1. Messiah by The Bible Project available on YouTube.

This video displays Jesus as the centre of the Bible.

2. The Thread by RemedyChurchCA available on YouTube.

This video against reinforces the idea of the whole Bible being about one story.



# The Story of The Bible

## Session 8: A Church History

The purpose of this session: is to explore the beginnings of the church family and what Christian community can look like.

### Kahoot

The Kahoot for this session is available here:

<https://play.kahoot.it/#/k/58072240-308c-418d-af6d-e8ed6c4c3a68>

You can also search for it on Kahoot under The Story of the Bible: Session 8.



### Memorising Scripture

Why not learn Acts 2:42?



### Video:

1. Acts Part 1 by The Bible Project available on YouTube. This goes through the first 12 chapters and explains the movement of God's people following the death of Jesus.
2. Acts Part 2 by The Bible Project available on YouTube. Considers the missionary journeys and Paul's witness through chapters 13 to 28.
3. This is Church by Igniter Media available on YouTube. This could be a helpful discussion starter for your group to discuss what they think church is.
4. Holy Spirit by The Bible Project available on YouTube. Considering Pentecost in Acts you might want to use this video to explain the Holy Spirit and it's place through the whole Bible too.



**Craft Project:** Keep crafting away together.

### Seeing Jesus Activity

As you look at the beginning of the early church, consider what ways the church is pointing to who Jesus is? Using a different colour of wool, show the impact and share the connections.



### Activity:

You might want to get your young people thinking about 'Our Church'. Why not get a big piece of paper and think about your church together. Consider the questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? If you have any encouragements or constructive comments you could share this with your vestry even by taking a picture of the finished article! Do you think this matches up to your understanding of what the Bible says?







# The Story of The Bible

## Session 8: A Church History

### Games:

**Fort Building** - 4+ players - you might want them to create a fort which reminds them of church or is similar to their church building.

For this activity you need a good amount of material, paper/card, pegs, string, chairs and any other decorative things. Divide your group into two teams and give them an equal amount of resources. Let them have 5-10 minutes to build a fort! You can give them as many stipulations as you wish eg:

Your fort must fit 2 people

Your fort must be able to stand

Your fort must be pretty on the inside

Your fort must have a name

You might want to choose a winner or have each group explain their fort to the whole group.

**Baton Relay Drills** - 3+ players - gather your group into a line roughly 2 feet between each person, have them pass the baton between each other as quickly and seamlessly as possible. Batons are available from the Diocesan Youth Office.

### Discussion Questions:

Use your discussion questions as a group and give your young people time to chat.

### Activity:

Some of your young people might learn more from the visual representation of the movement of the gospel geographically! You can look up map resources here:

<https://visualunit.me/tag/acts/?fref=gc&dti=1651243068494129>



# The Story of The Bible

## Session 8: A Church History

### Teaching:



Eating together. Sharing possessions. Lots of things in common. People of all ages gathered. What do you think this describes? It could easily describe our families or maybe even our groups of friends. Especially in Northern Ireland it is common for us to gather together with a bunch of people to eat! However, this is some of the description of the early church from Acts 2.

Back in Acts 1v8, we read about Jesus ascending to heaven after his resurrection and he says to his disciples, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth".

Here is the commission to the church. Jesus tells them they will receive the Holy Spirit and then they need to go out and tell everyone in the world about Jesus and the good news. We have Jesus telling a bunch of young men from one country, who all spoke one language to go and tell the whole world about his life. I am sure they doubted their ability and even questioned Jesus in entrusting them with this responsibility.

So Acts 2 kicks off with the disciples experiencing the Holy Spirit in Pentecost. Well, what an experience for the disciples. After Jesus has gone, suddenly experiencing something like what they had known before, similar to being in Jesus' presence. The power. The miracle of being able to speak a language you had never learnt. The disciples were acting so differently that people assumed they were drunk, but instead they had experienced something miraculous.

To explain their behaviour, Peter stands up and starts to quote the Old Testament scriptures!! He starts to explain how their behaviour and experience of the Holy Spirit connects throughout the Bible. He explains that Jesus living, dying and rising again was the plan from the very beginning!



# The Story of The Bible

## Session 8: A Church History

### Teaching Continued:

Once the people heard this, they felt sorry for the part they played in Jesus' death but Peter advises them of what to do. Acts 2 verses 38-39 says, "Peter said to them, "Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Then God will forgive your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you. It is also for your children and for the people who are far away. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself."

So in Acts we see the beginnings of the church and it growing to share the good news throughout the whole world. There was a numerical change, as many many people believed and got baptised. There was a geographical change, as the good news went beyond God's chosen people and was communicated to the Gentiles (anyone who was not an Israelite). The church begins evangelism. Evangelism is the sharing of the good news by telling others, it might be in front of a big crowd or through a personal story. But as the church grew beyond Jerusalem, it meant that the church had to share the good news in a way which made sense to all of the people. The church's evangelism had to develop to understand the culture, language, societal norms, occupations and government.

It is incredible to think about even how our country received the good news and what has happened since. All those people it took to share the good news so that you would know it.

Why not spend some time praying and thanking God for the legacy of people who since Acts 2 have shared the good news so that we know about it today?

# The Story of The Bible

## Session 9: Dear Church, from Paul

The purpose of this session: is to explore the letters written by Paul to churches throughout the area as the gospel spread.

### Games:

Post It Note Game - 5+ players - guessing game and group activity. Give each person in your group a post it note. Ask them to write the name of a celebrity on it. You could make this more specific to follow a theme or around a Biblical passage. Take all the post it notes in, mix them up and place one on each player's forehead, ideally it shouldn't be the one they wrote. Take it in turns with each player asking the group questions to help them guess the name on their post it note. The questions should be Yes/No questions, like 'Am I a female?', 'Am I famous for sports?' or 'Do you see me on TV?' As the player guesses right they can remove their post it note!

Defining or Not Game - 4+ players: Have a list of 10-20 obscure words, a suggested list is available below. Split your group into two teams. Each team gets paper and pens. The leader takes one word at a time and reads it out. Each team gets 1 minutes together to write the definition of the word. They can either try to work it out or create something plausible based on what they think the word might mean. The teams then read out their definitions and the closest to the real definition wins! You might want to have points for creativity. Possible Words to Define:

1. Haffle (means to stutter)
2. Sciamachy (conflict with imaginary opponent)
3. Athazagoraphobia (fear of being forgotten)
4. Burunduki (Siberian squirrel)
5. Gumption (resourcefulness or spirited initiative)
6. Sialagogue (a drug that promotes the secretion of saliva)
7. Superfluous (excessive, unnecessary)
8. Neoterism (an innovation in language)
9. Catharsis (purging of feelings or emotions)
10. Yestreen (yesterday evening)

# The Story of The Bible

## Session 9: Dear Church, from Paul

### Video:

1. The Cost by Open Doors UK & Ireland available on YouTube

This video explores the persecuted church and the role of those people in sharing the Biblical truths with other churches across the world.

2. The Books Paul Wrote by PursueGOD Community available on YouTube

This video is a quick run through of the themes of all the books Paul authored, both those written to the church and individuals which sets up this session and the next session.



### Activity:

You might want to get the young people to explore more of what it means to read the Bible and relate it to their lives today. There is a YouTube clip called 'How Do I Know Paul's Epistles Are Relevant for My Life? // Ask Pastor John' by Desiring God. This explores the relevance of the books and how they can be reliably seen to apply to more than just one church at one time in history. You might want to get your young people to listen to this during the week and take some notes to share at your next meeting.



### Activity:

Why not do as Paul did and write to encourage another church community? You could write to them, reminding them of the hope of the good news, encouraging them in their evangelism and mission, and encouraging those in ministry.

You might want to use the resources developed by Open Doors to write letters to a persecuted church around the world, more information here:

[opendoorsyouth.org/do-something/send-hope-write-a-letter/](https://opendoorsyouth.org/do-something/send-hope-write-a-letter/).

Alternatively why not chose another parish in Connor Diocese and write some encouragement to them. It might be a parish you have never heard of, or one you have an existing connection with.





# The Story of The Bible

## Session 9: Dear Church, from Paul

### Teaching Points:

Firstly before we consider the books in this section, just a reminder about who Paul is. Why not take a moment together to think through all that you know about Paul the Apostle? Who he was? How he came to faith? What his life was like? Paul describes himself as 'a servant of Christ Jesus' (Romans 1v1), 'chosen through God's grace' (Galatians 1v15), 'set apart for the gospel' (Romans 1v1) and as a witness to Christ's resurrection (1 Corinthians 15v8). Paul grew up in a Jewish family, as a Roman citizen and took pride in himself as a devout person. He was persecuting Christians before he experienced the power of God through a vision of the resurrected Jesus, was blinded for 3 days and then his sight was restored by Ananias.



So when we think of the character of Paul, we see how he was prepared to communicate with the new churches. But why did Paul write to the churches by letter?

Paul wrote to encourage them: we see this through Paul's writings to the Ephesians specifically in Ephesians 1v15-23. Paul displays his love for this church, it's people and their faith. That would have been such an encouragement to them! To know Paul was continually upholding them in prayer would have been an encouraging thought.

Paul wrote to correct their theology: we see this through the church in Corinth pledging their allegiance to wise teachers, of which Jesus and Paul are included. Yet the church does not solely state that they will follow Jesus, so Paul declares that they should be united together around Christ (1 Corinthians 1v10-17). Even in having the gospel being spread, it was still possible for the understanding of God to become twisted or misunderstood. We need to be able to graciously and humbly accept correction around our thinking.

Paul wrote to ease their disagreements: we see this really clearly in Romans 14 where the church is clearly disagreeing with one another on lots of different matters about living out their faith in Jesus Christ. They weren't sure whether to continue with food laws from the Jewish tradition and Paul advises them to "not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother" (Romans 14v13). Can we use this as an example to help with disagreements in our own church?

# The Story of The Bible

## Session 9: Dear Church, from Paul

Teaching continued:

Paul wrote to ask them for their help: we see this clearly in other books written by Paul to people, but Paul asks for help from the churches across the nation which he writes to. He asks for prayer from the church in Rome (Romans 15v30) and invites their giving which could be meeting the needs of other churches (2 Corinthians 8v1-7).

Paul wrote because he couldn't always be with them: Paul was often imprisoned or unable to move around as he wished, but also wanted to continue to share the gospel wider. All of this meant he was not always able to stay with churches who he longed to be with. In Romans 1 he shares that he often intended to travel to Rome to be with the church but was prevented. In Philippians 1, Paul speaks of yearning for the church in Philippi and how it was right for him to feel this way. We can consider this when we look at the church across the world. We will not be able to organise international mission trips to all but we can connect, through writing, sharing stories and encouraging one another.

Discussion Questions:

Continue to use the discussion questions to explore this section of the Bible.

Seeing Jesus Activity

Spend some time together talking about the churches which Paul wrote to and how Paul's letters show them more of who Jesus is. Using a new colour of wool, wind it round the hula hoop to express those ideas.

Memorising Scripture:

Learn Colossians 1v28 together.

Craft Project:

Continue to develop your craft project.



# The Story of The Bible

## Session 10: Dear you, from Paul

The purpose of this session: to explore the letters written from Paul to individual people.

### Game

D - O - W - N - 4+ players - a good mixer, you can learn some names and a bit of fun.

Gather everyone in a circle. You can teach this song to your group together. Start with the leader doing the caller role, using a young person's name. Once they have been the responder, they become the caller in the next round. Everyone in red. Caller in bold. Responder in black.

The responder comes up with a dance move after they shout OK! Which once they have done this once is repeated by the whole group. You then start back at the start again!

D - O - W - N, that's the way you get down

D - O - W - N, that's the way you get down

Hey [insert name of young person] Hey What

Hey [insert name of young person] Hey What

Show us how you get DOWN / No way

Show us how you get DOWN /Ok!

D - O - W - N, that's the way you get down

D - O - W - N, that's the way you get down

You can see a video by searching for D-O-W-N Youth Ministry Great Games on YouTube.

### Craft Project:

Keep adding more to your project!

### Memorising Scripture:

You could learn 2 Timothy 3v16-17 together.

### Discussion Questions:

Continue with your regular discussion questions.

### Kahoot:

There is a Kahoot quiz available here: <https://play.kahoot.it/#/k/0a06d710-6712-4b73-9271-c636d7c019b4> or by searching Kahoot for The Story of the Bible: Session 10.

### Activity:

Considering the mentoring relationship between Timothy and Paul. Why not encourage the young people to write to someone they have felt have mentored them at points? Could you encourage them to ask those people to meet up more regularly with them to produce a more formal mentoring relationship?





# The Story of The Bible

## Session 10: Dear you, from Paul

### Activity

Mentoring Snap. Divide your group into two teams. Have them work in a relay to take turns in turning over two cards at a time. Print out pictures of names of famous mentoring pairs, laying the card down with the blank side up. The team to find the most pairs wins!



Famous mentoring pairs you can use:

- Harry Potter and Albus Dumbledore
- Justin Bieber and Carl Lentz
- Yoda and Luke Skywalker
- Gandalf and Frodo
- Po and Master Shifu (Kung Fu Panda)
- Mr. Miyagi and Karate Kid
- Paul and Timothy
- Mark Zuckerberg and Steve Jobs

### Game

**Ships & Sailors** - 5+ players - a good active game and can connect to how Paul's letters were sent around the area. This game works with all the young people trying to follow the commands to stay in the game, similar to Simon Says. The main leader calls out commands from the front.

Commands:

**Captain's Coming** - standing still, hand saluting, you can't move until the leader says: "At Ease"! You can't do any other command unless you have been told At Ease, otherwise you are out!

**Ships** - go to the left

**Sailors** - go to the right

**Hit the Deck** - drop to lying on the floor

**Seasick** - go to the back and pretend to throw up

**Person Overboard** - in pairs, with one lying on the ground, second young person standing but holding their pairs hand & their other hand reaching up

**Rowing** - in threes, row in a line of three together

**Eating** - four people eating together

If young people don't have a partner or aren't in the groups (person overboard, rowing and eating) or don't complete an action quickly enough, they are put out!



# The Story of The Bible

## Session 10: Dear you, from Paul

### Teaching Points:

We want to spend a few moments considering the four books which are written by Paul to individual people.



Firstly, the books written to Timothy. Timothy was mentored by Paul through giving Timothy opportunities to share the gospel, following in Paul's footsteps and writing letters of encouragement. In 1 Timothy, Paul writes to Timothy as he goes to the church in Ephesus. Within the church, bad theology had been spreading and Paul wanted Timothy to go and help correct their thinking. The book of 1 Timothy shows Paul's vision for a holistic church community. Paul explains what a church believes directly shapes how that community lives and acts. The church should be known for serving the least and most vulnerable in our society.

In 2 Timothy, there is a greater level of personal content as Paul writes to Timothy in a really dire situation. Paul speaks from prison and believes he is coming towards the end of his life. At this time, he wants to communicate how following Jesus brings difficulty and tension.

Paul writes to Titus who was another friend who spent time spreading the gospel. Paul asks Titus to go to Crete to restore order to the house churches there. Cretans had celebrated the Greek Gods for a long time and once the gospel reached them, they ended up trying to join all the different gods together. Titus' job was to explain that God revealed in Jesus was completely different to Zeus! Zeus was renowned for his cunning behaviour and lies, which were then respected by the Cretans. Faithfulness and truth were totally opposite from what they expected from God's character. Titus was sent to set elders in the house churches to be new leaders to readdress the theological issues. Paul was trying to show Titus that the gospel must prove it's redemptive power in the public square. He needed the people to not just understand who Jesus was but that it would change how they lived their lives. Paul's missionary strategy is outlined in this book - church should be the agent of transformation in communities. This is done not by assimilating to the culture, or starting wars but through wise participation in culture.

Philemon is a really interesting book written by Paul, which explores the relationship between Philemon and Onesimus. Philemon was a master of a house and as he was wealthy it was normal to have slaves to help run the house. Onesimus was one of his slaves who at some point wronged Philemon. Onesimus then ran away rather than face the consequences. However when Paul meets Onesimus he loves Jesus and Paul knew Philemon loved Jesus too. So Paul writes to Philemon asking him to not only forgive Onesimus but treating him as a brother in the gospel. He asks Philemon to address any punishment to Paul instead of Onesimus. This was another opportunity for people who loved Jesus to show they were really, really different from the rest of the culture.



# The Story of The Bible

## Session 10: Dear you, from Paul

### Video:

1. 2 Timothy by The Bible Project available on YouTube  
A helpful consideration to focus on the mentoring relationship between Paul & Timothy.
2. Story of Timothy Lego by Taylor David available on YouTube  
Lego Video to describe how Timothy and Paul began to travel together.



### Seeing Jesus Activity

As you read the different letters of Paul, is there any other pictures of Jesus you have seen in what you've read? Even look at 1 Timothy 1v1 and see what the verse says about Jesus.



### Activity:

Read Titus 3v4-7. Have each young person prepare how they would share the good news with a peer/friend using this passage. Break up into small groups of 2-3 people and give each young person an opportunity to try out what they have prepared.





# The Story of The Bible

## Session 11: Dear all, from me

The purpose of the session: is to explore all the books written to individuals from various writers, their place in the whole narrative of the Bible and how we should read them.

### Videos:

You might want to choose one of the Bible Project videos to play considering one of these books which you think will be most relevant to your young people.



### Memorising Scriptures:

Try learning Hebrews 7v19 together.



### Games:

Rocky Walk - 5+ players. Gather your young people at one end of your hall. The aim of the game is for all your group to work together to get from one side to the other. The floor becomes a poisonous pit and the group can only live by walking on Rocks of Sanctuary (paper plates) to reach the other side. If any team member steps off the plates, the whole team loses and they have to start again! The Rocks of Sanctuary will appear where the first team member needs to step, but as soon as no team member is standing on it, the rock disappears forever. The main leader should be responsible to adding paper plates in front of the first person and removing them if the team doesn't continually have a foot on the rock. Allow your young people to keep practising until they succeed. They may want to be creative, eg having a second young person on their back to cross.



Ninja Tag - 6+ players: Gather your young people in a circle. To begin, everyone places their hands together shouts 'Tag that Ninja' and strikes a ninja style pose. Players then take turns, going round the circle, by attacking their opponents by swiping at their hands. The aim of the game is to avoid having your hand hit by another player on their turn or to hit another player's hand during your turn. Each player is only allowed to make one movement on their turn and must freeze immediately after this. Defending players may dodge if they think they will be hit but also must freeze once the attack is finished. If a player is hit on the hand, that hand is out. Once their second hand is hit, they are out of the game and will sit out. The game continues until only one player is left.

# The Story of The Bible

## Session 11: Dear all, from me

### Activity:

Why not use 1 Peter 2v4-10 to do some illustrated faith drawings? You don't need to be arty and can use the additional resources available from the Diocesan Youth Officer to give templates, or encourage them to start from scratch. Encourage the young people to read over the passage a few times, reflect on what pictures or phrases have meaning to them and let them create.

You could also use 1 Peter 2v9 and get your young people to write out the verse. Then look up all the other scripture references especially Old Testament referenced in this verse through the footnotes. Then write all those verses down the sides showing the connections in the Bible through this one verse.

### Discussion Questions:

Use the discussion questions to talk about this section of the Bible and it's importance.

### Craft Project:

Continue adding to your craft project!

**Resources & Ideas:** We want to encourage our young people to keep reading the Bible together.

Why not come up with more ideas together. To start things off, some practical suggestions:

1. Get some youth Bible reading notes to read alongside Bible passages or books.
2. Write down your questions as you read the Bible & then ask your youth leaders, family or Rector.
3. Pray. We believe the Holy Spirit is within us, pray before and while you read asking God to help you understand.
5. Highlighters. Why not use highlighters to highlight repeated words or phrases, things that stand out to you, encouragements, something you have never known before.
6. Be creative. Journal and colour new verses or challenging passages.
7. Keep trying! Why not start with a gospel like Mark and go from there.

### Seeing Jesus Activity

Using the woollen hoop, use a different colour of wool to show the connections you can make when you see references to Jesus in the letters.

# The Story of The Bible

## Session 11: Dear all, from me

### Teaching Points:

We want to understand how to read through a variety of books in the Bible understanding that as followers of God we want to read the Bible for ourselves, grappling with it, asking questions and not just accepting what we should believe about God but thinking through how we believe as young disciples. In these books, we have various writers writing to various people. We have learnt from our previous sessions that the type of writing is important to help us understand how to read those parts of the Bible, what it tells us about God and how we could go back and learn more. We want to take these books as an example for how you can go out on your own and explore your own Bibles!



What kind of things help us understand books in the Bible? Well we have learnt that the style of the writing is important. Whether it is history, prophecy, poetry or narrative - we read it differently and some of us might have a preference for what we read! For this section, we have letters. Just like Paul's letters written to churches or people, we know there is an author, an audience and an aim! So to read these books well, we want to establish these three things to know what they are trying to tell us.

Let's take James for an example. Turn to James 1v1 in your bibles. Who can tell us the author and audience? So this tells us James wrote the book and to God's people scattered across the world. This isn't a book written to a really, really specific church situation. It is written to believers generally in different contexts. It might say in your Bible that it is written to the twelve tribes which shows it was written to the Jewish Christians but can also be an encouragement to us today. So we have got the author, James, generally understood to be James the brother of Jesus. He is writing to the Jewish Christians who will have been being persecuted by Jewish authorities and Roman authorities.

But what does James want to tell them? Take a minute in pairs with your Bible and look through the book of James. Do you recognise any of the verses or passages? What do the passage headings say? If you were James, what would you want to tell that group of people?

Generally, James is known for aiming to communicate that faith without works is dead, that our faith in Christ overwhelms and fills us with such joy that we must act and live a life that honours God. It is a book which speaks to understanding what a life lived for Christ looks like. It comes with freedom from rules, yet the urge to act. From our understanding of the purpose of the book, we can read to understand more of what God wanted to tell those Jewish Christians but also how we can apply it to our own lives today. Sometimes when we read the Bible we can get stuck not understanding what the author is saying because we aren't sure of the context. This is why it can be helpful for us to study the Bible together or read books/bible notes which help us understand the context and purpose of what is written down.





# The Story of The Bible

## Session 11: Dear all, from me

### Activity:



Get the young people to think of a Christian that they know. It could be a family member, friend or member of their parish. Ask them to think of someone in a difficult situation. Get the young person to write a letter to them considering their context and what truths about God that this person could benefit from hearing. Encourage them to give this letter to the person. Have them consider how Paul might have felt knowing so many people and churches in difficulty.

### Prayer:



Read Jude v24-25. Get the young people to write this as a prayer to pray over one another in the group. The prayer will give glory to God and for protection over other young people. Why not ask your young people to read the prayer over each other?

# The Story of The Bible

## Session 12: All Together Now

The purpose of this session: to sum up the sessions, showing the overarching story of the Bible, what it means to how we read the Bible & live out our lives as followers of God.

### Games:

**Sporcle** - 2+ players - search on the Sporcle website for some great Bible trivia, [www.sporcle.com](http://www.sporcle.com). You can search for in particular Bible Top 200 which requires you to input all the most mentioned people in the Bible. These are great to project onto a screen for the whole group to see, you can run this as young people arrive and an easy way for them to get involved as they gather.

**Relay Pictionary** - 4+ players - a good way to show how messages can be communicated between people. This game can be played with a small group and all you need is some pens & paper! Gather your young people and divide them into two teams. Each team is located at opposite ends of the hall with a stack of paper and pens. The main leader stands in the middle. The teams send one person up to start who gets the first word/phrase. They run back to their teams to draw this, the team guesses and whoever guesses it correctly runs to the middle to get the second word/phrase. This is repeated until one team gets through all the words/phrases listed by the main leader in the middle. The teams should follow standard 'Pictionary' rules! No talking, no numbers or writing words! You could have a leader in each group to ensure they follow the rules. Suggested to have around 6-8 words or phrases listed in the middle, with a variety of complex and simple ideas, depending on how long you want the game to last!

### Craft Project:

Finish up your craft project together. You might want to choose to display this in your youth room or display it in church one Sunday for all your parish to see your hard work.

### Memorising Scripture:

How about trying to recap all of the scripture you have been memorising during these sessions. You might want to do a big test with a prize for the young person who remembers the most.

### Prayer:

Why not spend some time praying together to thank God for revealing himself through the Bible? You could get a load of scrabble tiles and get your young people to choose & spell out one word that they have learnt about God's character through the Bible and want to praise Him for. They could make a large display showing information and inspiration about God from what they have learnt. Pray using the words your group gathers and praise God. You might want to encourage all your group to pray saying "I praise you God that you are \_\_\_\_\_" and get them to insert the word they were reminded of.



# The Story of The Bible

## Session 12: All Together Now

### Videos:

1. The Bible in 50 Words by Igniter Media available on YouTube

This is a short video with an overview of the themes of the Bible in 50 words



### Kahoot:

Our final Kahoot quiz is available here: <https://play.kahoot.it/#/k/63b7e66f-5ced-4905-ba0a-09f5f94ba600> or by searching for The Story of the Bible: Session 12 in Kahoot.



### Extra Reading:

For those young people who want to continue to read around the overarching story of the Bible, here are some resources;

1. John Stott is interviewed in this podcast talking about the storyline of the Bible.

<http://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/an-overview-of-the-whole-bible>

2. Storylines by Andy Croft & Mike Pilavachi

A book which considers 6 themes which weave through the Bible encouraging young people to read the Bible.

3. God's Big Picture by Vaughan Roberts

A book which considered the Kingdom themes running through the Bible.

### Evaluation:

Give your young people a few square cards, and ask them to consider what they have learnt and what they want to continue thinking about. Give them the headings below and a few minutes on their own to consider their answers:

1. One thing you have learnt
2. One thing you want to continue & be held accountable to
3. One thing you want to learn next
4. One thing you want to encourage in your parish
5. One thing you want to thank your leaders for

### Discussion Questions:

Use your regular discussion group questions to explore what they have learnt considering the Bible as a whole and one big story.



### Seeking Jesus Activity

Add any remaining connections you have seen through the Bible to show the links to who Jesus is and how there are references throughout the Bible to Him.





# The Story of The Bible

## Session 12: All Together Now

### Teaching:

An overview of the whole Bible. We have covered so much and hopefully you have learnt things about the Bible which you didn't know before. We hope that it will make it more accessible to be able to sit down with your Bible in future and know where to start.



The whole story of the Bible points to our God intervening in his creation to redeem his people. Our God acts in love, provides his law for human flourishing and lavishes his grace to facilitate our standing.

God acts in love creating a beautiful world to sustain and provide for us. God acts in love by creating other human beings for relationship and community. God acts in love by sending his son, Jesus as an example of his love and allowing us to see what life can look like.

God provides his law to give our lives structure, purpose and justice. God provides his law in place of an everlasting solution to sin and pain. God provides his law as a response to our sin, knowing through Jesus the law & prophets are fulfilled. God provides his law to allow humans to flourish on earth.

God lavishes his grace to free us from the condemnation of sin. God lavishes his grace to give us fullness of life. God lavishes his grace to give us hope in new and everlasting life. God lavishes his grace to warmly welcome us into his family.

The whole Bible shows us a picture of our God. By exploring it's styles, context and purpose we can learn more of who God is, what his rescue plan is and how we can respond. It's about us and for us. We hope you will keep reading, enjoying, questioning and treasuring the truth in its pages.