

## LESSON 20: The Word of God



### AIM

To introduce the children to the Bible so that they will appreciate that God speaks to us through its stories, and to encourage children to show reverence to the Bible as the word of God. (5.4.3, 8.2.1, 8.2.2)

### OUTCOME

Learners understand the Bible as the word of God.

Learners show reverence towards the Bible.

### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* A Bible (1)(7)
- \* An illustrated Children's Bible or posters (2)
- \* Cloth, candle, vase and flowers (3)
- \* Flashcards (7)
- \* Bible story books (8)
- \* Drawing materials (9)

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Introduce the Bible** by carrying it reverently and holding it up for the children to see. Say the following rhyme and then let the children repeat it after you.
 

Let us look, look, look  
At this holy book  
Which is for you and for me -  
It tells of God's love you see.
- 2 **Talk** about why the Bible is a special and holy book. It is special because it tells us stories about God's love. Ask the children to name stories from the Bible which they have heard. Ask the children if they know the first story in the Bible. Let them imagine if they were to tell God's story where they would begin the story. Show the class some pictures of stories from the Old Testament.
- 3 **Prepare a special place for the Bible:** Tell the children that the Bible is going to be placed in the prayer corner. Have a cloth, a candle and a vase with flowers. Place the Bible reverently on the table. If you are using a picture Bible, a page could be turned each day.
- 4 **Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for loving us and giving us the Bible. Help us to listen to your word. Help us to learn from your word. Amen.
- 5 **Sing 'Alleluia':** Let the children learn to sing 'Alleluia' to a simple tune.
- 6 **Teach the children** the following prayer. The children make a small cross on their foreheads, lips and over their hearts as they pray:
 

God's word be in my thoughts.  
God's word be on my lips.  
God's word be in my heart. Amen.
- 7 **When we go to church** we hear God speaking to us in the stories from the Bible. The reader says, "The word of the Lord." We say, "Thanks be to God." Write these responses on flashcards, and practise with a short reading from the Old Testament. Develop the practice of using this response whenever you have a Bible reading.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 8 Have **Bible storybooks** available for the children to look at and to read.
- 9 The children can **draw pictures** of their favourite Bible stories.
- 10 Give the children an opportunity to discuss the stories they have heard. The children should be able to distinguish between **make-believe and Bible stories** which tell truths.
- 11 **Vocabulary extension:** The word Bible means book. Scripture, which means 'writings' is another word used for God's word. The Gospels are the stories of Jesus who brings good news. This rhyme could be used in teaching the vocabulary.

Bible means 'book'; open and look.  
Open it wide, there are stories inside.  
The gospels bring us news that is good.  
Scripture shows us to love as we should.
- 12 **Listening activities** – what can you hear? This may be combined with a drawing activity. The children keep very quiet and see how many sounds they can hear.

## LESSON 21: The Bible



### AIM

To show the children that the Bible contains two parts we call the Old and New Testaments, and to encourage children to show reverence to the Bible as the word of God (8.3.1, 8.6.1)

### OUTCOME

Learners know that the Bible consists of two parts or testaments.

Learners show reverence towards the Bible.

### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* A Bible (2)(5)
- \* Flashcards (3)
- \* An illustrated Children's Bible (6)
- \* Bible story books (10)
- \* Drawing materials (11)

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Introduction:** Teach new vocabulary. The word Bible means book. Scripture, which means writing, is another word used for God's word. The Gospels are the stories of Jesus. The following rhyme could be used in teaching the vocabulary. (See also LESSON 20, ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY 11)

Bible means 'book' - open and look;  
open it wide, there are stories inside.  
The word 'gospel' means good news;  
Scripture shows us how to choose  
what is good and what is right -  
to love God with all our might.

- 2 **When Jesus was a boy** he listened to stories from the Bible. But the Bible that Jesus read was up to here. (Show the children where the Old Testament ends.) Let the children think of an explanation for this. Tell them that the New Testament stories about Jesus were written after Jesus went to heaven. In the New Testament we learn about Jesus. Jesus tells us how much God loves us and how God wants us to love others. Using a picture Bible, show the class pictures of stories from the New Testament. Invite the children say what event the picture depicts.
- 3 **Who wrote the Bible?** Many people wrote down the stories which tell us about God's people and how much God loves us. God speaks to us through the stories. Introduce the children to the names of some of the books using flashcards - for example, Joshua, Ruth, Job, Isaiah, or the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- 4 **Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for loving us and giving us the Bible.  
Help us to listen to your word.  
Help us to learn from your word. Amen.
- 5 **When we go to church** we hear God speaking to us in the stories from the Bible. The reader says, "The word of the Lord." We say, "Thanks be to God." When the priest has read from stories of Jesus, the gospels, he says, "This is the gospel of the Lord." We answer, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

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- 6 **A Parable** [Mark 4:1-9]: Jesus told stories that teach. Open the Bible, or an illustrated Children's Bible at the appropriate place. Before telling the story of the sower and the seeds, say, "The gospel according to St Mark." Let the children pray the prayer taught in LESSON 25, "God's words be in my thoughts..." After the story, say, "This is the gospel." as above.
  - 7 **Ask questions** to help the children reflect on the story. Did all the seeds grow? Why not? What do the seeds need in order to grow? Tell the children that they are all good soil because they listen to Jesus' story so carefully.
  - 8 Let the children **commit to memory** Matthew 13:23: "The seeds sown in good soil stand for those who hear God's word and understand it."
  - 9 Give each child the opportunity to **hold the Bible** reverently and to say, "The Bible is a special book of God's love for us." The child then passes the Bible to the next child.
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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 10 Have **Bible storybooks** available for the children to look at and to read.
- 11 The children can **draw pictures** of their favourite Bible stories.
- 12 Give children the opportunity to discuss the stories they have heard and read. They should be able to distinguish between make-believe and Bible stories which tell of truth.

## LESSON 22: Abraham



### AIM

The children will hear and respond empathetically to the story of Abraham, the father of the Hebrew nation. (8.4.2)

### OUTCOME

Learners are familiar with the story of Abraham.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

#### 1 Tell the following story [Genesis 12, 15, 18].

Abram and his wife Sarai lived in a land a long, long way away, in Haran.

*(Shade eyes and look into the distance.)*

They lived in a house but they did not have any children.

*(Make a sad face.)*

God said to Abram, "I want you to go to another country. You will have a child and grandchildren and lots of great-grandchildren. You will be very famous. You will be very happy too."

*(Make a happy face.)*

Abram set out just as God had told him to. He took Sarai, his wife, and Lot his nephew. They took all the things they had. They took their sheep and their goats and their donkeys. God came to Abram. God said, "I am going to give you this country. It will always belong to you and your family." They walked and walked and walked

*(Walk on the spot.)*

and after a long journey they came to another country. It was called Canaan. Abram made a special fire for God. He prayed to God there.

*(Clasp hands in prayer.)*

Later, God changed Abram's name to Abraham. The name means 'father of a great nation'. God changed Sarai's name to Sarah. That means 'princess'. Abraham and Sarah grew older. Still they had no children. Abraham thought God had forgotten the promise that was made. But God said, "Look at the sky. Try to count the stars. Your family will be as many as the stars."

*(Look upwards towards the sky)*

One day Abraham was sitting outside his tent. Three men came to visit. One of them said, "Your wife Sarah will have a son." When Sarah heard this she laughed!

*(Hold sides and giggle.)*

She thought she was too old to have a baby. God kept the promise and soon Sarah had a baby. They named him Isaac, which means 'laughter'.

When Isaac grew up he had children and those children had children.

### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* 🎵 *The Farmer's in the Dell* (2)
- \* 📖 Outlines of the Biblical figures (4) ⇨
- \* Crayons, cardboard, glue, scissors (4)
- \* Boxes (6)

The Bible tells us that everyone who believes in God as Abraham did is part of God's family. So we know that Abraham's family has as many children as there are stars in the sky. God always keeps promises. You can be sure of that!

- 2 Invite the children to **dance** as they sing the following to the tune of *The Farmer's in the Dell*.

We're one big family,  
we're one big family,  
Hand in hand across the land,  
We're one big family.

We like to sing and dance,  
we like to sing and dance  
Hand in hand across the land,  
We like to sing and dance.



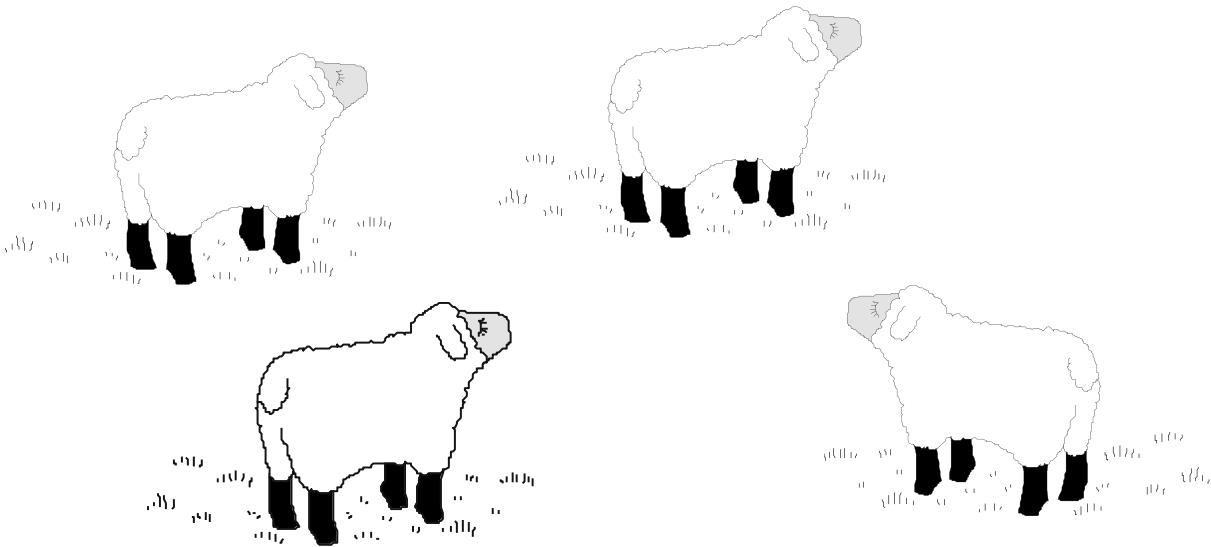
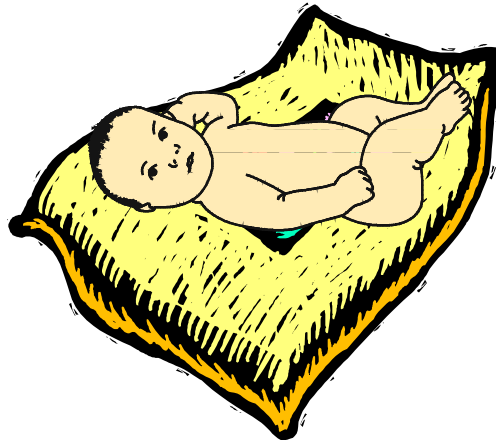
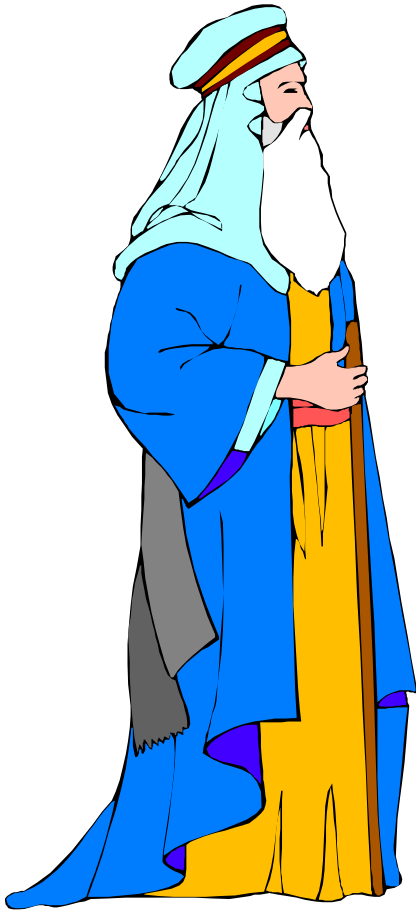
- 3 **Prayer:** Dear God, Thank you for keeping your promises and for all the good things we have. Thank you for my home and family. Help me to love and trust you more and more. Amen.
- 4 **Art and Craft activity:** Give each child a set of pictures, which can be coloured in. You can take them if you like from the worksheet. 📖 ⇨ The pictures may be stuck to cardboard to make each figure sturdier. Cut a slit in the bottom of the figure and make a stand out of strip of cardboard. Cut a slit in the strip and slot the two together. These figures can be used as 'puppets' to retell the story. Encourage the children to add their own dialogue.

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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 5 In **Islam and Judaism** as well as in Christianity, Abraham is revered as a prophet who taught people that there is only one true God and that people should worship God alone. In Islam, Abraham is known as Ibrahim and in Hebrew as Avraham.
- 6 Ask the children to think what they would take with them if they had to go on **a journey like Abraham and Sarah**. The children could draw the items they thought they would take and put them in a box. Ask if everything they wanted to take would fit into a box.

# God's Chosen People



## LESSON 23: Moses and Joshua



### AIM

To introduce the children to a story from the Old Testament (7.3, 7.5, 8.6.1)

### OUTCOME

Learners are familiar with the story of Joshua.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Introduction:** Have the children seated on the carpet and begin with this little rhyme:

We love to hear tales from God's Holy Book  
 About Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel,  
 Noah's ark and the Tower of Babel  
 Joseph's coat and his eleven brothers  
 Of kings and shepherds and many others.  
 Now we'll hear a story of long ago  
 Of Joshua and the walls of Jericho.

(Rita Bull)

- 2 **Tell the story** [Joshua 6:1-19]. Encourage the children to participate in the story.

Moses had helped God's people escape from Egypt. For forty years they wandered in the desert. The desert was sandy and dry. Finally they came to the River Jordan. They could see the land that God had promised them on the other side. They were very happy because they were close to home. Their homeland was very beautiful. They could see trees and grass and of course there was water!

Moses was now very old and he chose a new leader to take the people across the river. His name was Joshua. Joshua was young and strong and brave. When Joshua looked across the River Jordan, he saw a big city with high walls all around it. The people who lived in the city did not want to leave and Joshua did not have a big army to chase them away.

He had to think of another idea and God helped him. Early in the morning Joshua's people crossed the River Jordan. The people marched once around the city. The priests carried the Ten Commandments and trumpets made of rams' horns. They did this for six days. With all that noise, the people in the city thought that there was an enormous army outside.

On the seventh day the priests blew a long sound on their trumpets. Joshua said, "Shout! Shout as loud as you can! God has given you the city!" So the people shouted all at the same time. They looked up at the big walls and they saw the great walls of Jericho trembling and they heard the sound of the walls breaking. An amazing thing happened – the walls came crashing down and there was nothing left but a pile of dust.

At last, God's people were at home in the Promised Land.

### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* A Bible (2)
- \* An illustrated Children's Bible (2)
- \* Pictures (optional) (2)
- \* Cardboard tubes or something similar to use as trumpets (6)
- \* Five Pillars of Islam (8) ⇨



- 3 **Prayer:** Dear God, You have given us minds to think so that we can solve problems. Thank you for all the good ideas you give us. Help us to use our ideas to serve you and to help others. Amen.
- 4 **Memory verse:**  
Sing praises to our God!  
Play music on the harps!  
Blow trumpets and horns, and shout for joy to our God, our Creator. [Psalm 98:5-6]

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 5 **Play a game** of “What time is it, Joshua?” This game is best played on the playground. The child who acts as Joshua stands some distance from the others, with his/her back to them. The rest of the class stand behind a starting line. The children call, “What time is it, Joshua?” Joshua answers by giving any number between one and seven (representing the number of times the Israelites encircled the city). Joshua may say something like, “It’s time to take three steps.” The children then take the required number of steps. At a chosen time Joshua may say, “The walls are coming down!” The children must then turn and run back to the starting line. Joshua tries to catch one of them. The child who has been caught then acts as Joshua.
- 6 **Play-acting:** This story can readily be turned into a play and all the children can take part. Have a small group act as a television crew. One child can be the interviewer who asks Joshua why they are marching round the city. The interviewer can be sceptical about the success of the operation. The interviewer also acts as the storyteller so that the audience understands the actions taking place on the stage.
- 7 **Invite any Muslim children** in the class to share any stories and ways of worshipping with the class.
- 8 **Tell the following story.** As an introduction to the story very briefly and simply explain the idea of a pilgrimage or hajj, one of the Five Pillars of Islam. ⇒

### A STORY FROM ISLAM

There was once a man and his wife who wanted more than anything to go to Mecca, the Holy City of the prophet Muhammad. They worked hard and each month they set aside as much money as they could. At last they had saved enough money to go on the long journey to Mecca. They were very excited and they packed the special clothes they were going to wear and they thought about how they were going to pray and worship God in Mecca.

On the night before they were going to leave, they set out to say goodbye to their neighbours. It was getting late and they knocked at the door of a woman they had not seen for some time. They were shocked and saddened when they saw her. She was very poor and she was ill and she didn’t have any warm clothes to wear in the bitter cold. She had not eaten for two days as she had no money to buy food.

The man and his wife looked at each other. They knew what they should do. They thought of the money they had saved and the special clothes in their suitcase, but they did not hesitate. They went out and bought food and wood for the fire and they paid the doctor who treated her. They stayed with her until she was well and strong again.

“The sick woman’s needs are greater than ours,” they told each other. They remembered the important part of God’s message that people should care for each other and give would they can to those who have little.

Ramadan, the month of fasting was now over and they knew that they no longer had enough money to go to Mecca.

Some of their friends who had gone to Mecca were now coming back. The friends congratulated the couple for completing the Hajj. (Pilgrimage) The man and woman were very puzzled and they told their friends that they hadn't gone to Mecca. But their friends smiled warmly. "We saw you both in all the Holy Places. We had a vision. God told us that you had a most wonderful time in Mecca."

God had been watching these good people and God knew that they had wanted to go with all their hearts. They had not hesitated to help someone in need even though they knew that they would not have enough money to go on the pilgrimage. God was very pleased with them and the vision the friends saw was a sign that their deeds were as good as a Hajj.

## MATERIALS

### THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

*Shahadah (the declaration of faith):* There is no God but Allah; Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.

*Salat (prayer):* Muslims should pray five times a day, facing in the direction of Mecca.

*Zakat:* this involves giving to needy people.

*Sawm (fasting)* Adult Muslims fast from dawn to dusk during the month of Ramadan.

*Haji (pilgrimage)* All Muslims who can afford it are required to make the pilgrimage to Mecca once in their lives. Muslims performing Hajj do this during the month of Ramadan.

## LESSON 24: The Story of Jesus




### AIM

To help the children know, recall and participate in the telling of the story of Jesus and to help them understand that the stories of Jesus are written in the New Testament (4.2.3, 5.4.3, 8.3.1, 8.6.1)

### OUTCOME

Learners are familiar with the story of Jesus and know where they can find it.

### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Pictures depicting the life of Jesus (2)
- \* A Children's Bible (2)
- \* A Bible (2)
- \*  Copies of the worksheet (6) ⇨
- \* Echo pantomime (7) ⇨

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 Have the children seated comfortably on the carpet. Hold the Bible reverently while explaining that today the children will hear stories from the New Testament. Explain that the first four books of the New Testament consist of the gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These people wrote the **stories of Jesus' life**, the things he did and said.
- 2 Using the pictures, or an illustrated Bible tell the **story of Jesus**. Make a selection of events from the fourteen given below to make up your story. Give the children the opportunity to tell what they see in the pictures.

#### THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Mary and Joseph went on a journey to Bethlehem. There was no room for them at the inn, so they had to sleep in a stable. Jesus was born there. Mary wrapped him in warm clothes and put him in a manger.

#### JESUS IN NAZARETH

After some time, Mary and Joseph and Jesus went back to their home in Nazareth. When Jesus was older, he worked like the other people in the town and his parents were happy to see him growing into such a fine person.

#### JOHN THE BAPTIST

One day Jesus came to the banks of the River Jordan. There he met John the Baptist. John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the Saviour he had been waiting for and had been preparing others to meet. God's voice said, "This is Jesus my beloved Son. I am pleased with him."

#### JESUS CHOOSES THE DISCIPLES

Once when Jesus was standing on the banks of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew fishing. He said to them, "Come follow me." They immediately left their nets and followed Jesus. Jesus also called James and John and they also followed him. In the end there were twelve special friends who stayed with Jesus and helped him.

#### JESUS WELCOMES EVERYONE

Crowds often gathered just to see Jesus, to be with him and to hear him speak. Jesus told them the good news that God wants us to be happy and to love each other. People also

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brought sick people to Jesus and he healed them. Jesus loved children very much and he said, "Let the children come to me."

### JESUS WENT FROM PLACE TO PLACE

Jesus often visited Bethany. He would visit Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha. He enjoyed eating with them and talking to them. He was happy to visit those who had invited him.

### JESUS HEALED MANY PEOPLE

Some people carried their friend who was paralysed on a stretcher. When they could not get through the door, they lowered their friend through the roof. Jesus told the man to pick up his stretcher and go back home. The man was very happy that he could walk and run and dance again.

### JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

Jesus often went away to pray to God. One day his friends said, "Teach us how to pray." Jesus taught them to say "The Our Father". Jesus also taught people about the kingdom of God. He said that it is like a tiny seed that grows and becomes a huge tree that is big enough for the birds to nest in its branches.

### JESUS TELLS US HOW GOD LOVES US

Jesus told the story of the good shepherd. He said, "A good shepherd never leaves his sheep. I am the good shepherd: I am prepared to give my life for all of you." Jesus also said that we should love one another then everybody will know that we belong to him and are his helpers and his friends.

### JESUS FEEDS MANY PEOPLE

When a great crowd of people had been following Jesus, a boy who had fives loaves and two fishes gave them to Jesus who shared out the food and there was enough for everybody and there was lots of food left over. The next day Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." They didn't understand what Jesus meant.

### JESUS GOES TO JERUSALEM

Jesus knew that he had enemies there but still he decided to go there. At first the people were happy and they cried, "Hosanna!" on the Thursday night, Jesus had a special meal with his friends. He took the bread and he said, "This is my body." He took the wine and he thanked God and he said, "This is my blood."

### JESUS IS ARRESTED AND CONDEMNED

Jesus was arrested and after he had to carry the cross up a hill, he was nailed to the cross and left to die.

### JESUS IS WITH US ALWAYS

As the sun rose on the first day of the week, God brought Jesus back to life again. His friends saw him many times and they knew that he was alive and they were happy. Jesus told them to stay in Jerusalem because he was sending them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### PENTECOST

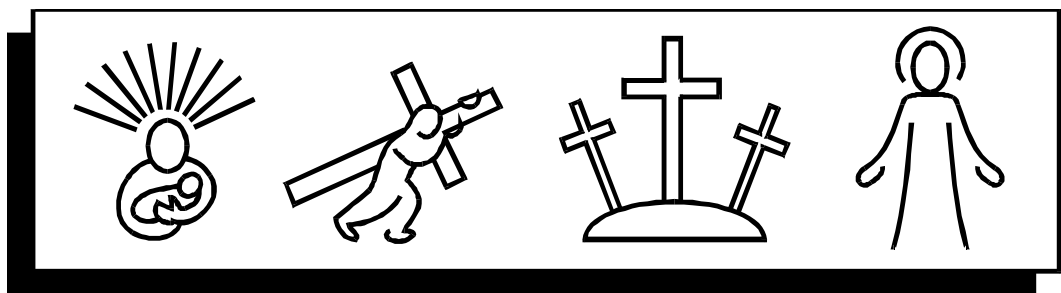
On the day of Pentecost the friends of Jesus received the Spirit of God and now they were no longer afraid and with their new courage they went out to tell everyone the good news, "Jesus is alive and he is with us always."

- 3 **Prayer:** Let the children prayer the *Our Father* together. Briefly explain the meaning of the petitions.
- 4 **Memory verse:** I am with you always, even to the end of time [Matthew 28:20].

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 5 Use pictures on the worksheet as a **colouring in activity**. 📖 ➡
- 6 Use the pictures on the worksheet to allow the children to **retell stories** from Jesus' life. 📖 ➡
- 7 **An Echo Pantomime** from Matthew 4:23-25

Jesus went all over Galilee	<i>(walk on the spot)</i>
teaching in the synagogues,	<i>(mime talking)</i>
preaching the Good News	<i>(arms outstretched)</i>
and healing people who had all kinds of disease and sickness.	<i>(hand on head)</i>
People brought him all those who were sick	<i>(bring arms towards self)</i>
and Jesus healed them all.	<i>(extend arm forward)</i>
Large crowds followed him	<i>(walk on the spot)</i>
and Jesus taught them	<i>(mime speaking)</i>
about God's love.	<i>(hug self)</i>



**Jesus is born in Bethlehem.**

**Jesus carries his cross.**

**He dies on the cross.**

**Jesus is alive!**

# The Story of Jesus

