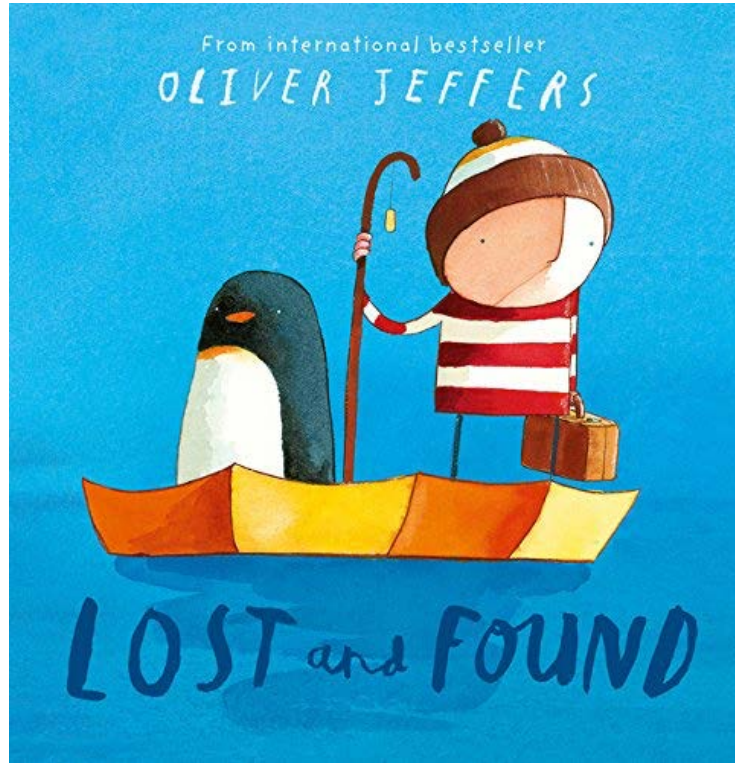


New Life



Good news brings new life.



What makes you happy when you are sad?

Can you think of a time when you were struggling? What cheered you up?

Read "Lost and Found" by Oliver Jeffers, or watching this video of the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRAAQ8EWzig&t=60s>

What did the boy realise at the end of the story? What made him happy?

Your task:

Create a poster or presentation of good news! Collect information, pictures, ideas and thoughts – everything that makes you feel happy!

Pentecost



Pentecost is a Greek word, meaning “fiftieth day.” At this time, Jewish people celebrate Shavuot and in Jesus’ time there would have been a lot of people in Jerusalem. Read the Scripture on the next 4 slides, from Chapter 2 of the Acts of the Apostles, which describe how the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and Mary.

Questions to discuss:

- What happened to the friends of Jesus?
- How would this help people spread the Good News?
- What reaction did the people have who heard Peter speak?
 - What effect did it have on their lives?
- How would you have felt on hearing Peter’s message?
- How does the power of the Holy Spirit change people’s lives?
 - How could you be bearers of Good News?

Your task:

Create your own artwork or storyboard, describing the events of Pentecost. Think about the colours and symbols you use in your artwork to show the effect of the Holy Spirit.



Then Peter stood up with the other apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd:

'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, listen to me and let me tell you what this means. This is what the prophet Joel spoke about:

'Yes, even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my spirit in those days, and they will proclaim my message.'

Listen to these words, fellow Israelites!

Jesus of Nazareth was a man whose divine authority was clearly proven to you by all the miracles and wonders which God performed through him.

You yourselves know this, for it happened here among you.

In accordance with his own plan, God had already decided that Jesus would be handed over to be crucified.

But God has raised this very Jesus from death, and we are all witnesses to this fact.

All the people of Israel, then, are to know for sure that this Jesus, whom you crucified, is the one that God has made lord and messiah!

When the people heard this, they were deeply troubled and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'What shall we do, brothers?'

Peter said to them, 'Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God's gift, the holy spirit.'

For God's promise was made to you and your children, and to all who are far away - all whom the Lord our God calls to himself'.

Many of them believed his message and were baptised, and about three thousand people were added to the group that day.

They spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and the prayers.

**Based on Acts 2
(Come and See)**

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place.

Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there.

They were all filled with the holy spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the spirit enabled them to speak.

There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world.

When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered.

They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages.

In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, 'These people who are talking like this are Galileans! How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages?'

**We are from Parthia, Media,
and Elam; from
Mesopotamia, Judea, and
Cappadocia; from Pontus
and Asia; from Phrygia and
Pamphylia, from Egypt and
the regions of Libya near
Cyrene.**

**Some of us are from Rome,
both Jews and Gentiles
converted to Judaism, and
some of us are from Crete
and Arabia**

**Yet all of us hear them
speaking in our own
languages about the great
things that God has done!**



**Based on Acts 2
(Come and See)**



Then Peter stood up with the other apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd:

'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, listen to me and let me tell you what this means. This is what the prophet Joel spoke about:

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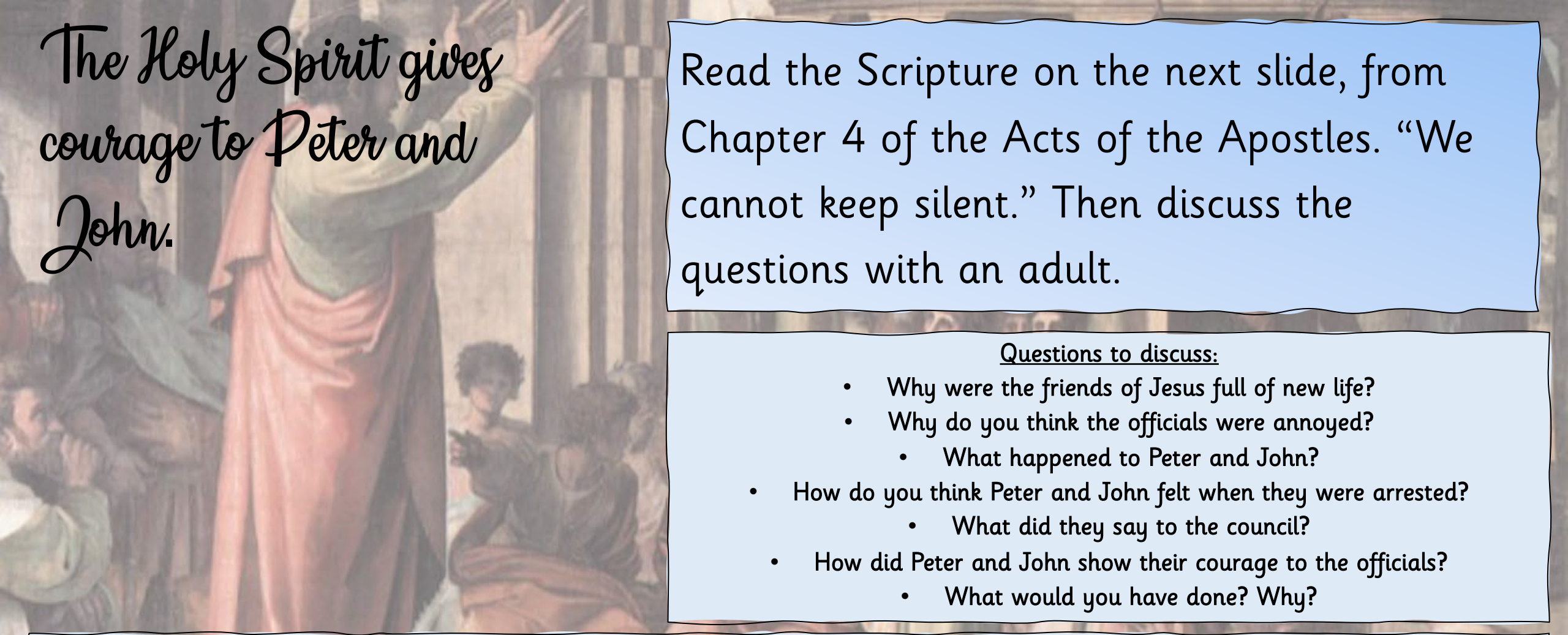
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**Based on Acts 2
(Come and See)**



*The Holy Spirit gives
courage to Peter and
John.*

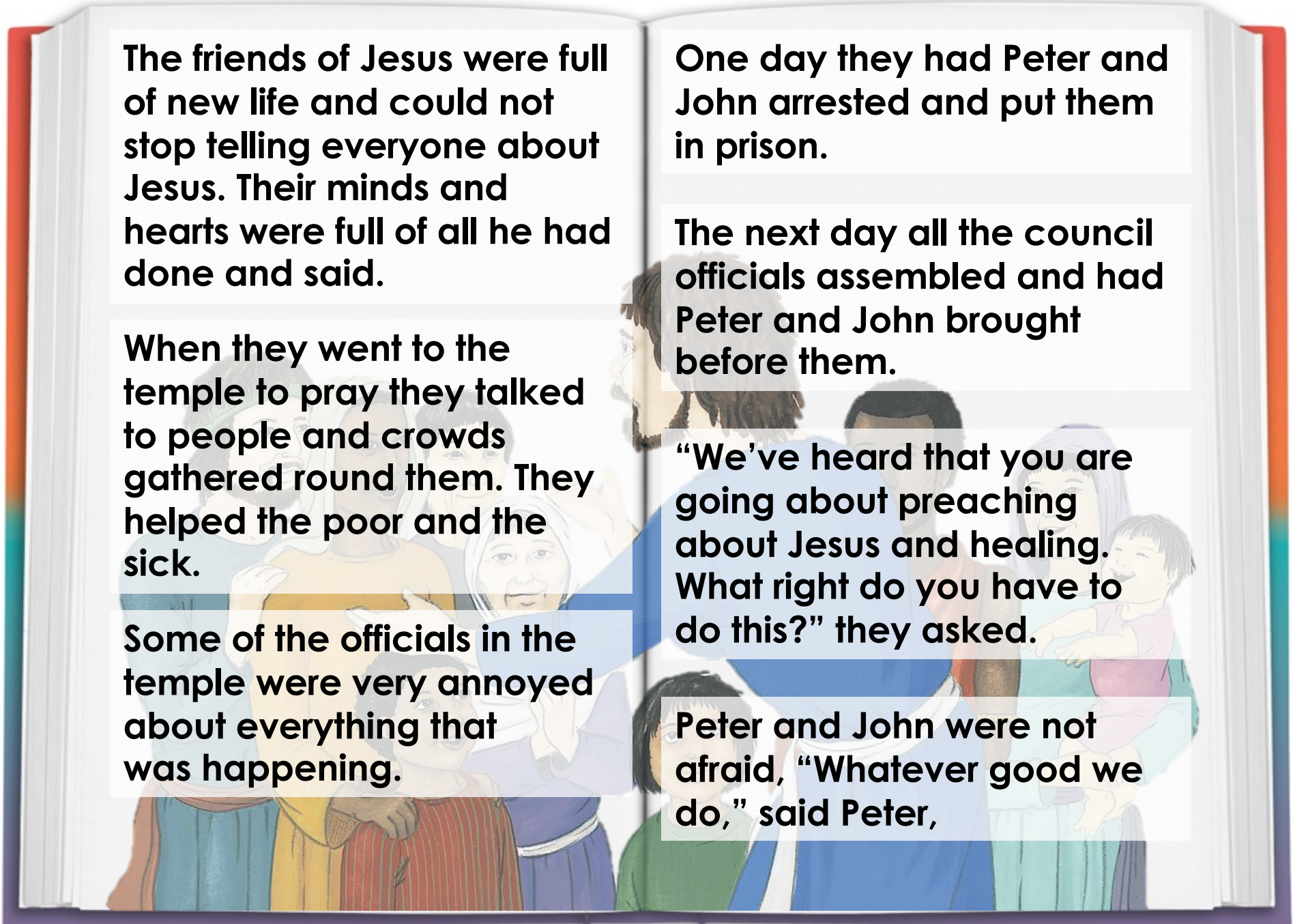
Read the Scripture on the next slide, from Chapter 4 of the Acts of the Apostles. “We cannot keep silent.” Then discuss the questions with an adult.

Questions to discuss:

- Why were the friends of Jesus full of new life?
- Why do you think the officials were annoyed?
 - What happened to Peter and John?
- How do you think Peter and John felt when they were arrested?
 - What did they say to the council?
- How did Peter and John show their courage to the officials?
 - What would you have done? Why?

Your task:

Draw your own image of Peter and John talking to the officials. Add speech bubbles to record what they are saying. Add thought bubbles to explain what they are thinking and the reasons for what they are doing.



The friends of Jesus were full of new life and could not stop telling everyone about Jesus. Their minds and hearts were full of all he had done and said.

When they went to the temple to pray they talked to people and crowds gathered round them. They helped the poor and the sick.

Some of the officials in the temple were very annoyed about everything that was happening.

One day they had Peter and John arrested and put them in prison.

The next day all the council officials assembled and had Peter and John brought before them.

“We’ve heard that you are going about preaching about Jesus and healing. What right do you have to do this?” they asked.

Peter and John were not afraid, “Whatever good we do,” said Peter,

“we do in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. You crucified him, but God raised him from the dead.”

The whole council were amazed that two very ordinary men were not afraid, and were able to speak out boldly.

They discussed the matter, and then ordered the disciples never to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John were not frightened by any of their threats and said,

“We cannot keep silent about the great things that God has done. We have to spread the Good News of Jesus.”

The officials had to let them go because the people were so glad about what they were doing, and the officials did not want to risk a riot.

When Peter and John got back to the other disciples, everyone thanked God for their safety and the courage that the coming of the Holy Spirit had given them.

**Based on Acts 4:1-26
(God's Story 3)**

The Ethiopian receives the new life of Jesus



Philip was a follower of Jesus. He, too, spoke of the Good News of Jesus everywhere he went. He baptized the Ethiopian in the river before he set off on a journey to spread the Good News. Read the Scripture on the next slide, then discuss the questions and complete the task.

Questions to discuss:

- What happened to Philip on the way to Gaza?
 - How did Philip help the Ethiopian?
- What do you think the Ethiopian meant when he said he needed help to read the Bible?
 - Why did the Ethiopian want to be baptized?
 - How did the Ethiopian feel then?

Your task:

Imagine you are the Ethiopian. Write a letter to the Queen of Ethiopia to describe what happened when you met Philip. Try to explain how this meeting gave you new life.

Philip was a follower of Jesus. One day he went walking on the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza.

A chariot passed him. In it was an officer of the court of the Queen of Ethiopia.

This man was reading one of the books of the Bible: the book of the prophet Isaiah.

God's spirit spoke to Philip, saying, "Go to meet that chariot."

When he reached the chariot, Philip heard the Ethiopian reading the words of Isaiah:

"Do you understand what you are reading?" asked Philip.

"How can I understand unless I have someone to help me?" he replied. He asked Philip to help him.

"Come up here beside me," he said. Philip did as he asked

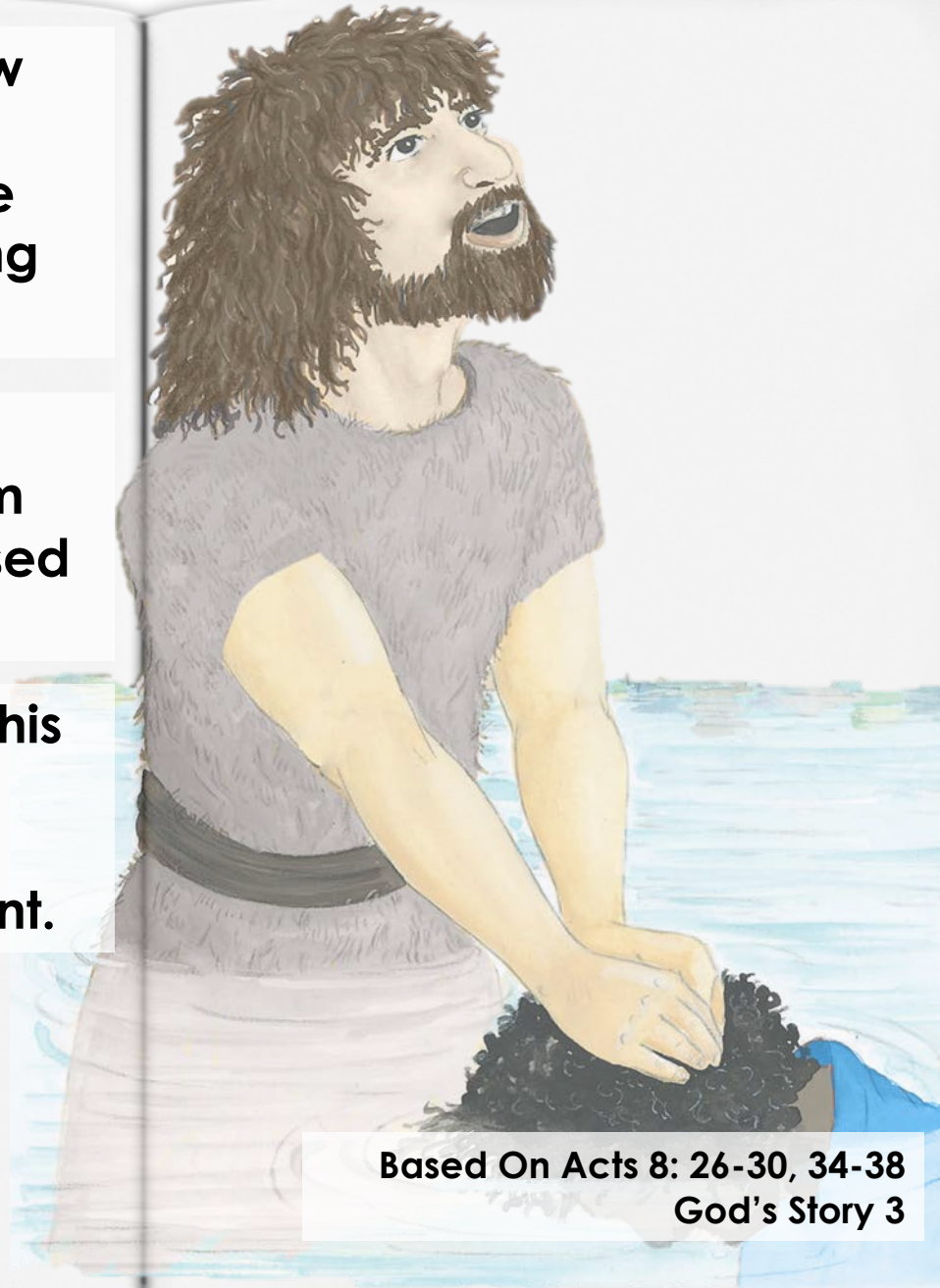
The Ethiopian said, "Who is this prophet talking about here?"

Philip explained that the passage was about Jesus and went on to tell him more of the Good News of Jesus.

A little further on they saw some water and the Ethiopian asked, “Is there anything to stop me being baptised?”

He stopped the chariot. Philip went down with him into the water and baptised him, there and then.

The Ethiopian continued his journey rejoicing. Philip went on telling the Good News everywhere he went.



**Based On Acts 8: 26-30, 34-38
God's Story 3**

The story of Paul.



Paul was originally called Saul. Watch this video to find out about him.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eRXq-cKmr0>

Then, read the information on the next slide, which gives more details, and discuss the questions.

Questions to discuss:

- Who was Paul?
- How did he change?
- Why did he want to go all over the world spreading the Good News?
 - What was the Good News that he gave?
- Why did Paul think it was important for him to do this?

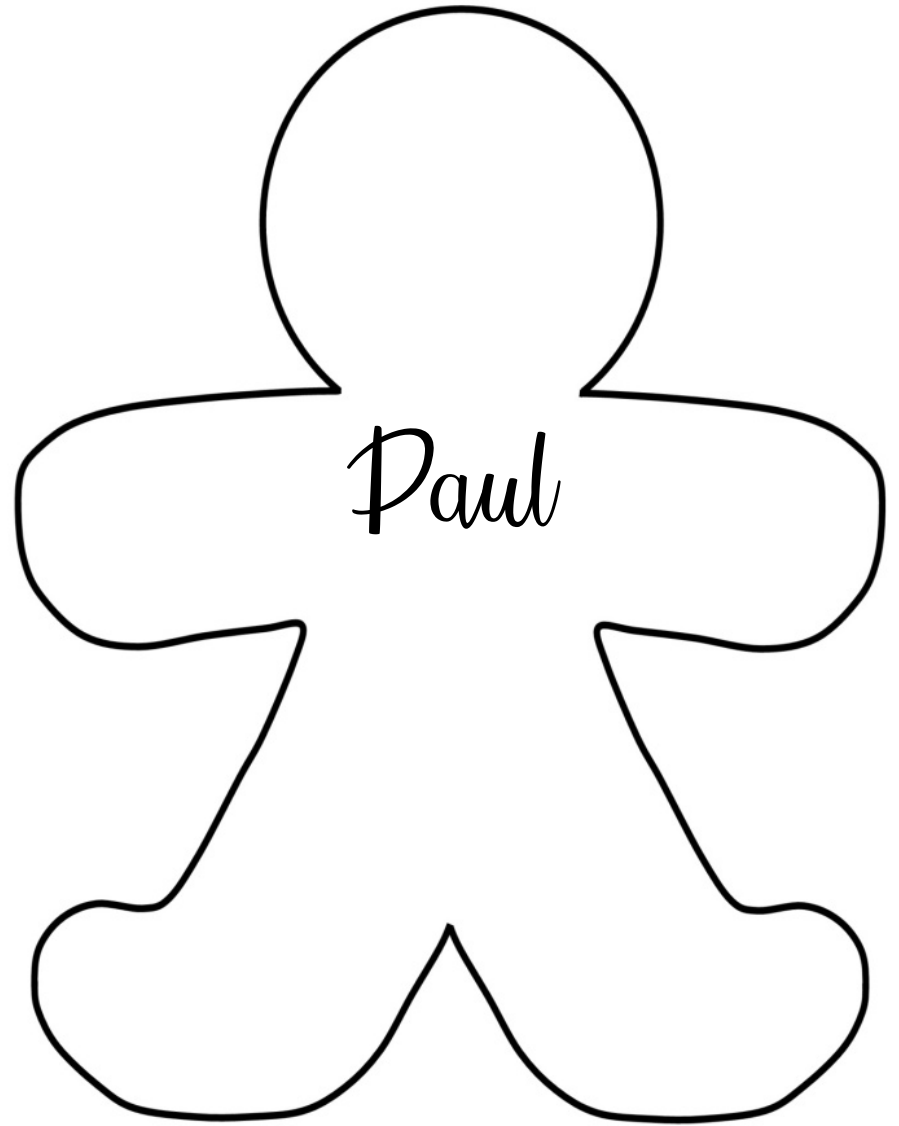
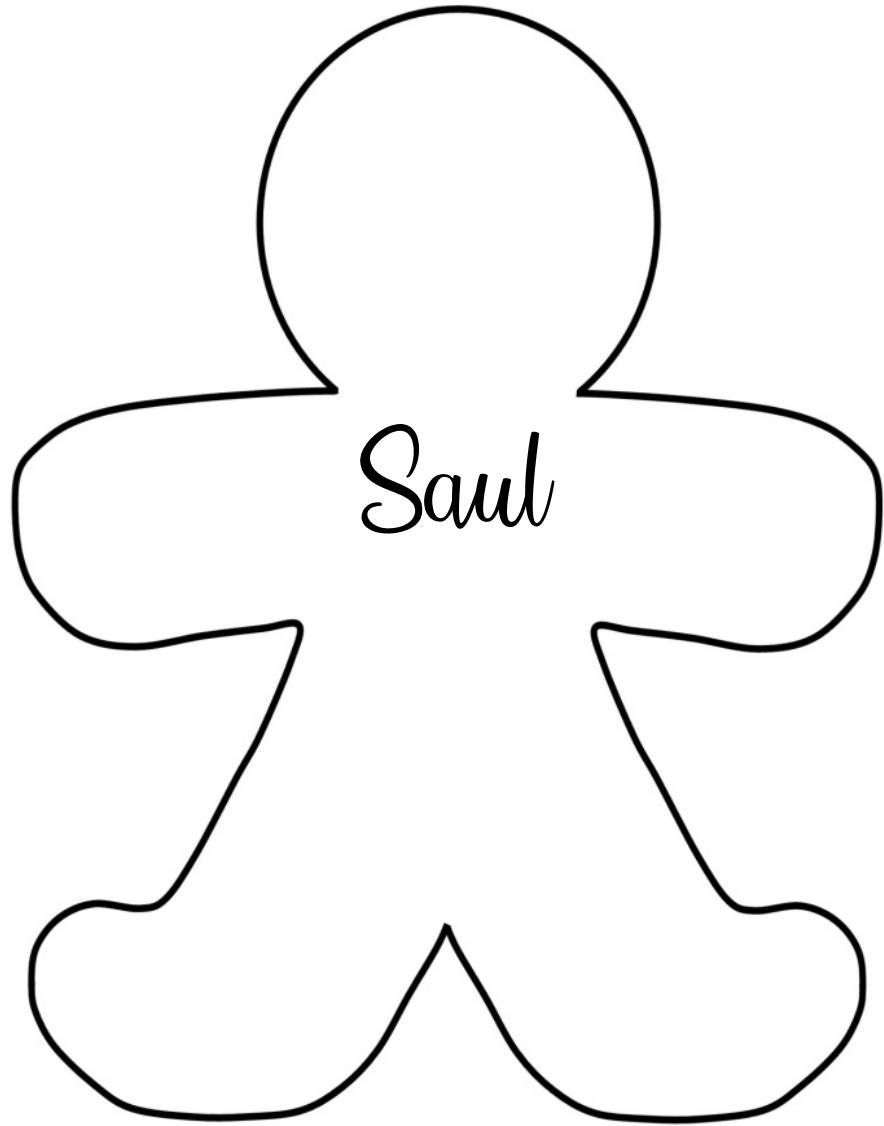
Your task:

Use the template on the following slide. Fill the body template of Saul with words to describe how he was before. Then, fill the template of Paul with words and sentences to describe how he had changed.

Paul was originally called Saul. He was a Jew who came from Tarsus. He grew up in a Jewish home. He was a Pharisee and did everything he could to be a good man. He kept every rule there was to keep, but he did not like the followers of Jesus. He did his best to wipe them out; however, God filled his mind and heart with the light of truth, and he recognised who Jesus was. He knew he owed everything to God's love. All he wanted to do was spread the Good News of that love all over the world. When he became a Christian his name was changed to Paul.

He travelled many thousands of miles, on foot, on horseback and by boat to spread the Good News, mainly to the Gentiles, the people who were not Jews. In every place, he told people about Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. He explained the Good News that Jesus had come to bring – God loves everyone. He told them how Jesus had died and been raised to a new life by his Father in heaven and how the Holy Spirit helps people. He told them that Jesus wanted them to share this new life. When they asked him what they had to do to live this new life, he told them that they must believe and be baptised and try to live like Jesus, loving God and loving one another. They were to share their faith with one another, pray together and break bread together as Jesus had done with his friends at the Last Supper.

Pharisees were a distinct group within Judaism, who believed in both the written and oral tradition of the Torah (the first 5 books of the Old Testament) and were strict in their observance.



Paul spreads the Good News.



After he became a friend of Jesus, Paul travelled many thousands of miles to spread the Good News. Watch this video, which tells you about his journeys.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hy4K1pP408Y> Now read the extra information, discuss the questions and try the task.

Questions to discuss:

- What drove Paul to put his life in danger by such hazardous journeys?
- How do you think people felt when Paul came to their city?
 - What do you think happened when he left?
 - What do you think it was that kept Paul going on his journeys for 30 years, even though it was hard?

Your task:

Look at the table on the slide following the map. Can you match the places Paul visited to the letters he wrote to them? Draw lines on the table or make your own chart to match them correctly.

Paul was a Jew and became one of the friends of Jesus. He travelled many thousands of miles on foot, on horseback and by boat to give the message to the Gentiles, the people who were not Jews. Paul wanted as many people as possible to hear about the Good News of the new life which Jesus brought. So, he travelled around to the towns surrounding the eastern Mediterranean Sea. The Acts of the Apostles tells about those journeys and what happened. He had many adventures during his journeys. He was shipwrecked and was imprisoned several times. Paul would start a Christian community in a town and then move on to another place. He would often write to the people of the town where the Christian community had been started, offering them advice and encouragement. Sometimes he sent one of his friends to help them.

This is a simple outline of Paul's journeys:

The First Journey: Began and ended in Antioch in Syria, and included Cyprus as well as Iconium, Lystra and Derbe.

The Second Journey: Also began and ended in Antioch and included Phrygia and Galatia, Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth and Ephesus. It included Caesarea in Palestine, and probably Jerusalem. (Note there are two towns called Antioch one in Pisidia and one in Syria)

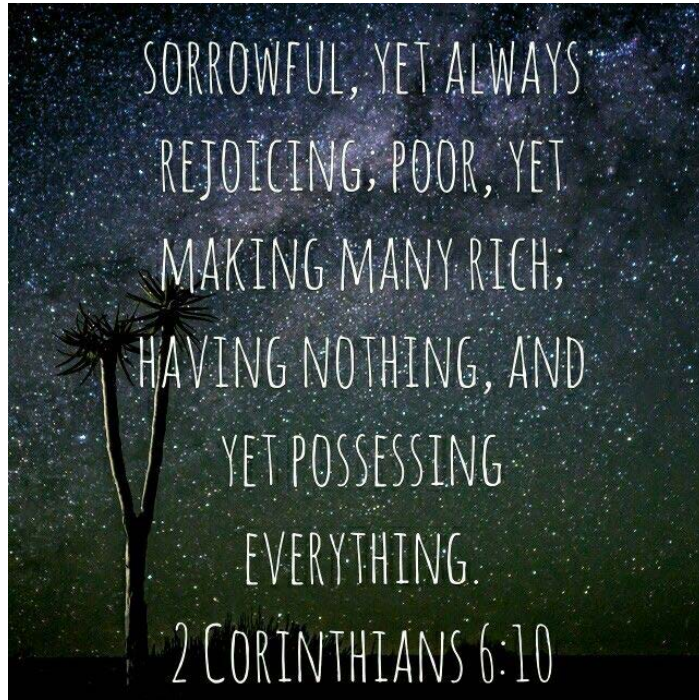
The Third Journey: Included Galatia, Phrygia and Ephesus, where Paul spent more than two years; then Macedonia, Greece, where he spent three months, Philippi, and a return to Caesarea and Jerusalem.

The Fourth Journey: Began from Caesarea where Paul was arrested, and on to Rome where he was to be tried because he was a Roman citizen. On the way he stopped on the islands of Crete, Malta and Sicily. He was shipwrecked on this journey, but he managed to get to Malta.



Paul's letter to:	Place he visited:
Philippians	Rome
Colossians	Corinth
Romans	Galatia
Thessalonians	Ephesus
Galatians	Philippi
Corinthians	Colossae
Ephesians	Thessalonica

The Holy Spirit gave Paul new life and happiness.



Paul wrote many letters during his journeys. Read the Scripture on the next slide and Paul's happiness. Discuss the questions with an adult and then complete the task.

Questions to discuss:

- What do you think Paul expected when he set off on his journeys?
 - What happened to him?
 - How do you think he was able to cope?
- How do you think we might live if we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us?

Your task:

Choose your favourite line from the letter. Use it to create a poster with illustrations and how it has affected your life.

I've had to put up with all sorts of things – dangers and hard times and all sorts of difficulties;

I've been flogged, put in prison and beaten up; I've had to work like a slave, go without sleep and food.

People have sometimes honoured me, and sometimes insulted me;

Sometimes praised me, and sometimes blamed me.

They thought I was lying, yet I always tried to tell the truth;

They called me a nobody, yet everybody knew me;

My life wasn't worth living, yet I have enjoyed every moment of it;

I've had a rough time, yet they haven't finished me off;

Many things have made me sad, yet I've been a very happy man.

**Based on 2 Corinthians 6:3-10
(God's Story 3)**

Respond

Now that you have explored all the Scripture for this topic, spend some time recording the key things you want to remember.

Listen to some quiet music and spend time recording what you found interesting and how you will spread the Good News.

With your family, take part in a worship, using the resources on the following slides to help you.






The new life of the Easter message is
spread through the power of the Holy
Spirit.

Gather: Set up a prayer focus, you could add any of the following items or choose your own:

- Cross
- (Paschal) Candle
- Spring flowers/blossom
- Good news board
- Atlas/Globe of the world showing Paul's journeys
- Bible opened at Acts 4: 1-26
- *God's Story 3* page 136
- Any work done during the topic

Let us begin our prayer time together by lighting our special Easter candle to remind us of the "good news" we are called to share through the power of the Holy Spirit... that Jesus is risen and shares his new life with us...

Let us make the sign of the cross together...In the name of the Father....



The new life of the Easter message is spread through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word:

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The friends of Jesus were full of new life and could not stop telling everyone about Jesus. Their minds and hearts were full of all he had done and said. When they went to the temple to pray, they talked to people and crowds gathered round them. They helped the poor and the sick. Some of the officials in the temple were very annoyed about everything that was happening. One day they had Peter and John arrested and put them in prison. The next day all the council officials assembled and had Peter and John brought before them. “We’ve heard that you are going about preaching about Jesus and healing. What right do you have to do this?” they asked.


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The officials had to let them go because the people were so glad about what they were doing, and the officials did not want to risk a riot. When Peter and John got back to the other disciples, everyone thanked God for their safety and the courage that the coming of the Holy Spirit had given them.

The Word of the Lord (Thanks be to God)



The new life of the Easter message is spread
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Respond:

The Holy Spirit filled Jesus' friends with new life. They were not afraid anymore; they wanted to share their joy. We too can spread the word about this happiness because we know that Jesus has brought new life for everyone through the Holy Spirit as Jesus promised. The Holy Spirit is a helper and guide in our lives.

Share some of the ideas you collected on your good news board at the start of the topic, discussing how they made you happy.

Pray together:

The response to our litany is: *Thank you God!*

Thank you God!


For the Good News of the Gospel. Thank you God!

For the new life of Jesus. Thank you God!

For the help the Holy Spirit gives. Thank you God!

For the Good News of your love. Thank you God!

For the call to spread the Word. Thank you God!



The new life of the Easter message is spread
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mission:

How can you be a bearer of Good News at home and in the community?

Discuss ideas together as a family.

Final Prayer:

We give praise to God as we say together:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

You could end by singing the hymn, “Sing it in the Valleys” together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bbmYOccWnk>