

## Sunday Kids Church.

“Be ready to give away everything.” “Be salty”

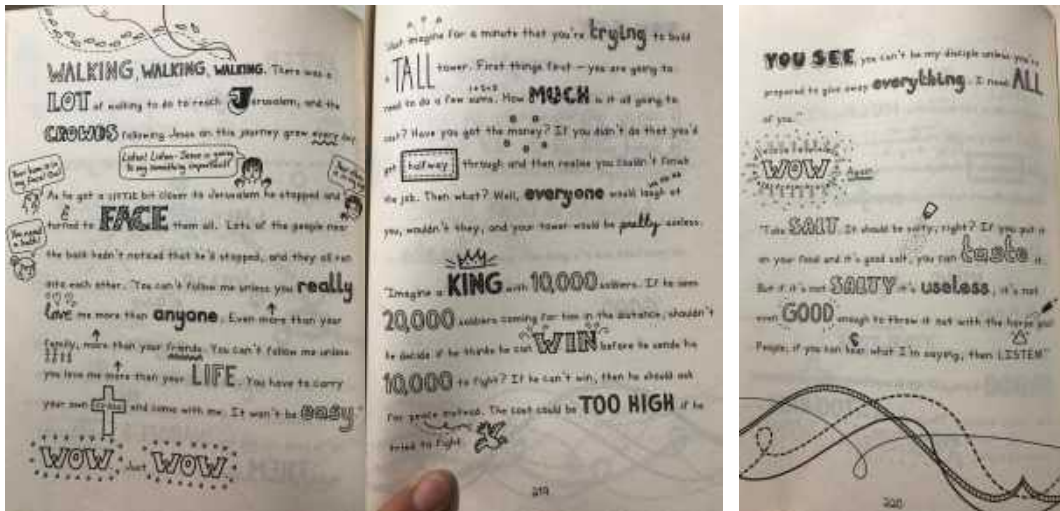
**Aim** - for our kids to learn about what it means to follow God.

**Welcome** (take register in kids notebook)

**Icebreaker/game (5mins)** - What have you asked for, for Christmas? Or what would you love to get for your next birthday? Or best gift you've ever been given?

## Bible story/ get kids to read the book (5mins)

Diary of a disciple - page 218-220



## Brief explanation (5mins)

The Bible says one of the important signs of being a Christian is loving God more than anything else in our lives. God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to die for us. As well as being kind, we are supposed to be a good influence on those around us - setting a good example of how to be and how to treat others. At Christmas and birthdays most of us focus a lot on what we want and what we will get, we tend to focus more on that than what we can give to others. As Christians God tells us we should love him more than all of our stuff, so much so we should be ready to give everything away - what a challenge!

**Discuss** - how easy or hard would it be to give away everything you had? Hands up if you think it would be - easy, a bit hard, or really hard? Sometimes we put a lot of importance on the things we have, but God says that we need more than stuff to make us happy. True happiness comes from knowing God loves us and following him. Following God means putting other people before ourselves, being generous and being kind. Being salty means being different in a good way - having an impact on those around us - when other people might choose to be selfish - instead we do what God wants us to and think of others.

**True story** - a girl called Jazmin, who was 8 years old, watched Children in Need on TV with her mum and dad. She saw a short video clip about two brothers whose dad had recently passed away, as a result the family didn't have enough money for Christmas this year, which meant no special food and no presents. Jazmin was shocked that someone in this country would have to cancel Christmas due to lack of money. She asked her mum if they could search for a local charity to help. After looking online they found a charity called Pied Piper in their town, that helped children in hospital and with disabilities. Each year Pied Piper does a Christmas appeal for toys for children who may not get any due to money being tight or spending Christmas in hospital. Jazmin recorded a video for youtube to let other people know about the appeal. She collected 100 toys from people who she inspired to help! Wow.

All of us could choose to help other people around us who might be struggling or have less than us this Christmas time. Have a think about what you could do this Christmas time for other people?

## Craft - Decorate biscuits (5-10mins)

### As they finish, if time...

Discuss practical ideas... how could you be more generous, kind, caring, etc. eg. Give away some of your toys, use pocket money to buy food for Foodbank, donate/raise money for St Marks Meals, do something kind for someone else...

**Pray (2mins)** - Father God. Thank you that we are all welcomed into your family. Please help us to follow you, do the right thing, think of others and help us to find more ways to be kind and generous to others. Ame

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"God loves us so much he pursues us", 100 sheep and the missing 1...

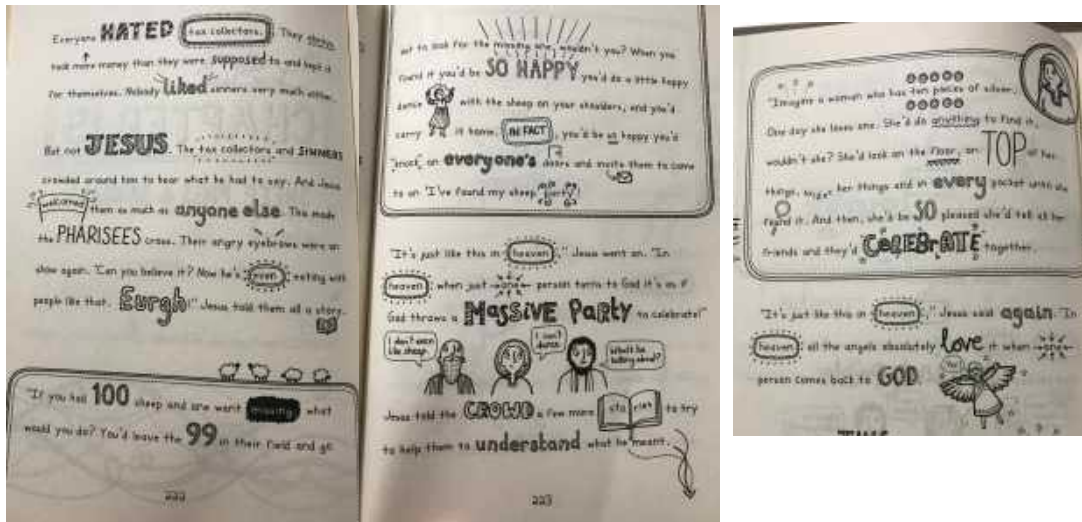
**Aim** - for our kids to learn about how much God loves us and relate that to advent/Christmas time.

**Welcome** (take register in kids notebook)

**Icebreaker/game (5-10mins)** - Pictionary animals - take it in turns to draw well known animals and everyone else has to guess what it is.

### Bible story/ get kids to read the book (5mins) -

Diary of a disciple - page 222-224 up to, "all the angels love it when one person comes back to God."



**Brief explanation (5mins)** - The Bible says God made each of us because he wanted to make people to share relationship and friendship with. We all have a choice whether we want to be friends with God or not. If we choose to be friends with God it means following God and trusting His plan for our lives. When even one person decides to be friends with God and follow Him, the Bible says there is a party in heaven. Each person matters to God and is loved by Him. At Christmas we celebrate and remember when God sent his son Jesus to earth as a humble, fragile tiny baby. Jesus the miracle baby was a human like us but was also God's son and so he had

the ability to do miracles. His birth brought hope to everyone. His birth was even written about hundreds of years before it happened. He wasn't just a special baby but was a special adult too and when he grew up he made sure that everyone he met knew they were special and loved by God. We can have joy because of God's love for us and all the things he's given us. God really cares about us and doesn't want any of us to be lost. He wants us all to believe in Him.

### Activities/craft (10mins) -

Celebrating good things is a big part of Christianity, now is a great time to remember what we are thankful for and celebrate it. Just like in the Bible that we read where it says there is a party in heaven when someone decides to believe in God, we're going to have a mini party to celebrate all the good things we have.

Decorate paper party cups and plates and write or draw on them what you are thankful for.

At home ask your parents if you can have a treat to celebrate next time you do something good and use your cup and plate.

### Pray (2mins)

Father God, we thank you for giving us all sorts of good things. Thanks that there is a party in heaven each time one of us decides to believe in you. Help us to be positive and full of joy this week. Amen