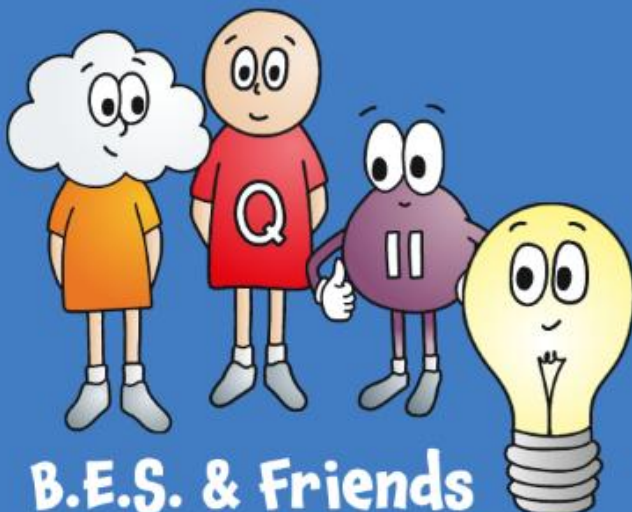


International Teacher Lesson Plans

Bibletime Levels 3 and 4

B Series
B1-B6



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www.besweb.com



NAME:

B.E.S.

This cloud character is based on **Exodus 13: 21-22** and is a symbol of God's presence. He is a source of wisdom throughout the Bibletime stories, as he guides and teaches the character 'Q' about God. He's a gentle, friendly character who encourages us all to study God's Word, the Bible, in a deep and meaningful way.



NAME:

Q

Q is an inquisitive and deep thinking character. He has lots of questions and is brave enough to ask them. He looks to his friends B.E.S. and Beam as wise and encouraging mentors, to help him find answers. In so doing, he helps us all to discover an even greater friend, Jesus.



NAME:

PAUSE

Pause is a happy, cheerful character. He does not speak but his presence indicates a time to pause, so that we can reflect on what has been discovered up to that point. Pause also reminds us to attempt the activity or questions after careful thought.



NAME:

BEAM

This lightbulb character is linked to Psalm 119: 105. He is 'shining his light' for Jesus. Alongside B.E.S., he helps Q and us to understand the Bible as God's instruction manual. He shows us how to live in relationship with God, fellowship with others and as witnesses to the truth of the Gospel.

BIBLE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Registered Charity UK (CIO 1186004)

BES MISSION:

We produce Bible lessons for Partners to take the truth of Jesus Christ to the next generation globally.

BES VISION:

Every partner will have our curriculum in their own language and use it effectively to reach the next generation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

What Bible Educational Services does:

Bible Educational Services (BES) publishes Bibletime, Bibletime Going Deeper and Gleaners Bible lessons in English, and supports Postal Bible Schools and similar organisations using BES lessons in the UK and overseas. We do this by visiting, networking, advising and training. BES is also currently working in partnership with groups in other countries who are involved in translation, design, publishing and distribution of lessons.

Lessons must be provided free of charge to all students.

Bibletime lessons were first used in Southern Ireland over 60 years ago. Bible Educational Services maintains editorial responsibility for Bibletime Lessons in English and all foreign languages. Bibletime lessons have been normally published in an A4 format which enables students in some areas, every four weeks, to send the lessons back to a Postal Bible School Centre for marking. More recently, lessons for six months have been published in an A4 format, which has made usage in Churches and Schools much easier, especially where there is no effective postal system. Revival Movement Association, print the 6-month booklet in an A5 version to send internationally.

The BES lessons are unique in that they are prepared with home or group (Church / School) study in mind. They follow a planned syllabus which allows students to continue studying for up to 20 years. Five levels of lessons are available for specific age groups, Pre-school, 5-7's, 8-10's, 11-13's, 14-16's. There is a three-year syllabus for each age group. The age groups may vary according to different levels of ability. The Bibletime resources allow children the opportunity to study the Bible and reflect on its relevance in the lives of people today.

Printed copies of the lessons are available in English from the BES website www.besweb.com or the BES Office in Enniskillen. They are also available on the website in other languages. BES has documents which may be helpful to you if you are considering partnering with us, which are also available on the website.

BES CONTACT ADDRESSES:

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Email: info@besweb.com

Website: www.besweb.com

LESSON PLANS FOR TEACHERS

Teacher Lesson Plans are produced to equip Teachers using Bibletime lessons with suggestions and ideas for classroom study. In this booklet they are designed for use with Levels 0-4.

Each lesson plan follows the same Bible reference as the Bibletime lesson and are designed to be used on a weekly basis. The April lessons are specific to the Easter story and the December lessons are based on the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Normally the classroom Teacher will work through the monthly A4 lesson each week with the class. They are free to allow time for independent study if this is appropriate. At the end of the month, the Teacher will collect the lesson and do the necessary marking, returning the marked lessons as soon as possible to the pupils.

PREPARATION FOR TEACHERS

Teachers should feel free to use their own ideas and initiatives when using the Bibletime lessons, adapting them as appropriate to their particular pupils. These are suggestions which may help in the use of this Resource:

- **Be familiar with the story** - Teachers should be as familiar as possible with the Bible Story and also with the Bibletime lesson that accompanies it. Ideally, the Bibletime lesson should be completed by the Teacher before the lesson. The Lesson Plans for each lesson should also be carefully considered as a planning aid for the lessons.
- **Understand the lessons to be learned** - At the top of each lesson plan you will notice the words 'We are learning that', followed by some learning intentions. The children will hopefully have grasped these points after listening to the Teacher's presentation and completing the Bibletime lesson.
- **Introduce It** - With all lessons, we start where the children are with their own experience of the situation. We have suggested various ways that might be used to introduce the story to enable the children to be interactive in discussing the starting point of the story.
- **Teach It** - We have given the Key Points in the story. Teachers should not have to refer to these when actually teaching the story, but they are a useful guide. Aim to teach it in an interesting and inspiring way! Help the children to understand the main points by grasping their attention - use the appropriate tone and ask questions to test their learning.
- **Show It** - We appreciate that in some situations, visuals will be very difficult to obtain but wherever possible it is important to focus on pictures or objects to help in the understanding of the story. In most lessons, we have given information about pictures from www.freebibleimages.org (FBI) which are downloadable from their website. These direct links to the story / study are available in Appendix A, B or C at the back of the booklet.
- **Learn It** - There is a Key Verse attached to each story. Hearing and learning these verses should enable pupils to increase their knowledge of Biblical vocabulary.
- **Complete It** - In a school situation, you will be aware of the abilities of children to complete worksheets and the amount of Teacher support required. For some, it will be a requirement that the Teacher reads over the text of the lesson as the children follow what is now a familiar narrative. Other children may be able to read the text independently. Whatever the approach, try to make the lesson enjoyable, and remember to praise the pupils' efforts.
- **Review It** - We have suggested possible quizzes, games, art and drama to assist learning, and as a means of revising the story.
- **Live It** - This section carries the heading 'How does the lesson challenge Christians today?' and also some suggestions for possible group work and individual responses to the challenge of the lesson.

BIBLETIME SYLLABUS

	LEVEL 0 (Pre-School) LEVEL 1 (Ages 5-7) LEVEL 2 (Ages 8-10)	LEVEL 3 (Ages 11-13)	LEVEL 4 (Ages 14+)
STARTER	Introduction – BES & Friends	Introduction – BES & Friends	Introduction – BES & Friends
SERIES A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation 2. Noah 3. Peter 4. Peter - The Cross 5. Abraham 6. Abraham 7. Peter 8. Peter 9. Jacob 10. Early Christians 11. Paul 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation 2. Noah 3. Peter 4. Peter - The Cross 5. Peter 6. Abraham 7. Jacob 8. Prayer 9. Paul 10. Paul 11. Paul 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation & Fall 2. Early developments - Genesis 3. Peter 4. Peter - The Cross 5. Peter 6. Abraham 7. Jacob 8. The Christian Life 9. Paul 10. Paul 11. Paul 12. The Christmas Story
SERIES B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early Life of Christ 2. Miracles 3. Bethany 4. The Cross 5. Parables 6. Joseph 7. Joseph 8. People Jesus met 9. Moses 10. Moses 11. Moses 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parables 2. Miracles 3. Bethany 4. The Cross 5. Early Christians 6. Joseph 7. Joseph 8. Gospel Writers 9. Moses 10. Moses 11. Moses 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parables 2. Miracles 3. Bethany 4. The Cross 5. Early Christians 6. Jacob & his family 7. Joseph 8. Acts 2: 42 - The way ahead 9. Moses 10. Moses 11. The Law 12. The Christmas Story
SERIES C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daniel 2. More Miracles 3. People Jesus met 4. Death of Christ 5. Ruth & Samuel 6. David 7. David 8. Joshua 9. Elijah 10. Elisha 11. Jonah 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daniel 2. People Jesus met 3. More Miracles 4. Death of Christ 5. Ruth 6. Samuel 7. David 8. Joshua 9. Elijah 10. Elisha 11. Men used by God - OT 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daniel 2. The sayings of Jesus 3. The Lord's Power 4. Death of Christ 5. Ruth 6. Samuel 7. David 8. Joshua 9. Elijah 10. Elisha 11. More OT Characters 12. The Christmas Story

Levels 3 & 4	B1 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – Parables Topic – Who is my neighbour?	B1 – LEVEL 4 Study 1 – Parables Topic – The two debtors
	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 10: 25-37</p> <p>Key Verse: Luke 10: 27</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Our neighbours are those who need our help regardless of their race or religion. Christians love God and wish to demonstrate their love by helping their neighbours in their spiritual, physical or material needs. 	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 7: 36-50</p> <p>Key Verse: Romans 5: 1</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The woman knew that the things she had done wrong could be forgiven by Jesus. Simon the Pharisee thought he was a better person than the woman, even though he had done wrong things too.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk about who are our neighbours. Discuss with pupils that being a good neighbour has more to do with being kind and friendly to those in need, than it has to do with 'nearness'.</p>	<p>Set the background to this parable by pointing out that it contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three actual persons – Jesus, the sinful woman, and Simon the Pharisee; Three imaginary people – the moneylender, the man who owed 500 pence and the man who owed 50 pence; Three questions – verses 42, 44 & 49.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain: Explain the application of this parable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The man who was attacked by the robbers (verse 30) was stripped, wounded and left half dead. A Samaritan shows compassion (verse 33), bandages up his wounds and ensures he is looked after until he returns again (verses 33-35). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Christians believe that it's important to show love to others, in the same way that God has shown love to them. Race, creed or social background are irrelevant – the only thing that matters is that the person's need is being met. Remind the pupils that in the story, the Samaritan stopped to care for the Jewish man. At this time, there was deep hatred between Jews and Samaritans. This is what makes the Samaritan's compassion all the more commendable, and his example worthy of imitating. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 1. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Who is my neighbour?</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Simon's self-righteousness; the woman's tears of repentance, joy, love and gratitude; and Jesus who could read Simon's thoughts when he thought Jesus should have ignored this sinful woman (verses 36-39). For Christians, this parable is intended to illustrate that Jesus is their 'moneylender'. They are all in debt to God but when Jesus died on the cross, He paid the debt for them. Jesus knew that Simon saw himself as the 50 pence debtor and the woman as the 500 pence debtor. Jesus wanted Simon to learn that there are no differences with sin. Both the 50 pence debtor and the 500 pence debtor were unable to pay their debt, but the moneylender forgave them both (verses 40-43). When asked which debtor would love the generous moneylender most, Simon had to admit it was the person who was forgiven most (verse 42). Jesus drew Simon's attention to 'this woman' and pointed out her love for Him compared to Simon's lack of respect for Him (verse 44). Jesus also points out that He can forgive sins, but it was the woman's faith, not what she did, that saved her (verses 48-50). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 1. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – The two debtors.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Recap the lesson by asking a few revision questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Where was the man travelling to? What did the robbers do? Which religious men didn't stop to help? What did the Samaritan do? 	<p>Read Acts 13: 38-39 and discuss how it summarises what Jesus was teaching in this lesson. Read Ephesians 4: 32 and discuss how those who have been forgiven should behave towards others, and how it must feel to be forgiven by God for all sins (or debts).</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How can Christians show that they love God? Think of ways in which Christians can be neighbourly in relation to spiritual, physical or material needs. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Simon treated Jesus with indifference and there is no evidence he ever said sorry and experienced forgiveness and peace (verse 50). The woman gave her best in terms of her time, talents and possessions. How should Christians serve God today?

Levels 3 & 4	B1 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – Parables Topic – The rich farmer	B1 – LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Parables Topic – Who is my neighbour?
	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 12: 13-21</p> <p>Key Verse: Luke 12: 15</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Bible teaches that the rich farmer was rich with possessions but was spiritually bankrupt because he left God out of his life. 2. Christians try to put God, and not things first in their lives, as they believe that faith, service and obedience are much more important than material possessions. 	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 10: 25-37 and Philippians 2: 1-11</p> <p>Key Verse: Luke 10: 27</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A neighbour is someone who has need of help regardless of their race or religion. 2. Christians love God and wish to demonstrate their love by helping their neighbours in their spiritual, physical or material needs.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk about favourite possessions. Discuss what it means to covet – envy / resentment over what others have. Refer to the Ten Commandments and explain how the last one says 'Thou shalt not covet' (Exodus 20: 17).</p>	<p>Discuss the meaning of 'neighbour'. Develop the idea that in Biblical terms it is not 'nearness' that makes someone a good neighbour. Instead, it is the kindness and friendship shown to those who need help, whoever they are.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus called this man a 'fool' for placing a greater importance on material things over spiritual things. 2. He was a 'fool' in the following ways: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A Godless Fool – He lived his life without God. Christians believe that a life may be full of 'many things' but if it is minus God, it is an empty life. He did not understand that all of his possessions came from God. b) A Poor Fool – He was actually a poor, rich man – poor with regard to his eternal future. He set his heart on riches rather than on God. c) A Self-Centred Fool – In verses 17-19, notice six 'I', five 'my' and four 'I will'. God, who supplied his wealth, was not in all his thoughts. He even called his soul his own – my soul! d) An Ambitious Fool – He was selfish in his ambition for he spoke of security for many years to come; love of taking life easy, eating, drinking and being merry (verse 19). e) A Doomed Fool – The God he had left out of his life, demanded his life from him (verse 20). Christians believe God is in control of all aspects of life. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 2. Show It: see FBI links in Appendix B – The Rich Farmer.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When an expert in the Law of Moses asked Jesus what he could do to inherit eternal life, Jesus directed him to the Law and asked what it demanded. It required total love for God and for his neighbour. Jesus was showing how the purpose of the Law, or the Ten Commandments, was not to save from sin but to show God's perfect standards. 2. The lawyer should have understood that he fell short of God's standards and asked for forgiveness. However, in his pride he asks, "Who is my neighbour?" In order to answer him, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan. The Jewish priest and Levite were Jews and the Jews hated the Samaritans. They refused to help but the despised Samaritan came to the victim's rescue. The lawyer was forced to admit the Samaritan proved to be a true neighbour to the wounded Jew. 3. We see in the Priest and Levite the powerlessness of the Law to help sinners. For Christians, the Good Samaritan reminds them of Jesus who came to rescue them from sin. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 2. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Who is my neighbour?</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>The rich farmer made three very serious mistakes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He mistook the purpose of life. Read Philippians 1: 21 and explain Paul's purpose in life. 2. He thought he had earned his own wealth. Read Philippians 4: 19 and explain God's provision. 3. He was cautious with regard to his future and lost his soul. Read Mark 8: 36-37 and discuss how these verses relate to the rich farmer. 	<p>Refer to the Bible Reading in Philippians and summarise this lesson by pointing out that verses 1-4 refer to good neighbourly qualities and verses 5-11 show how Jesus is the ultimate example of love.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make a list of ways Christians can use their possessions to help others. 2. Consider how much importance Christians should place on acquiring material wealth. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How might Christians help those who have physical, spiritual or material needs? 2. What does Luke 6: 35 say about good neighbours? How can this be put into practice?

Levels 3 & 4	B1 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – Parables Topic – The Sower	B1 – LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Parables Topic – A foolish man
	<p>Bible Focus: Mark 4: 1-20</p> <p>Key Verse: Mark 4: 20</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The seed is the Word of God. 2. The various kinds of soil represent human hearts and how receptive they are to the Word of God. 	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 12: 13-21</p> <p>Key Verse: Luke 12: 15</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Bible teaches that the foolish man was rich with possessions but was spiritually bankrupt, because he left God out of his life. 2. Christians try to put God, and not things first in their lives, as they believe that faith, service and obedience are much more important than material possessions.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Explain that Jesus often told parables to emphasise some of the truths He was teaching. Generally, the parables had a deeper, spiritual meaning. Sometimes He did not explain the meaning, but on this occasion, he gave a full explanation. The different places where the seed was sown represented different responses to the Word of God.</p>	<p>Discuss the background to this parable. It is a man asking Jesus to intervene in a dispute about a will. Problems like this were often brought to Rabbis to settle. Jesus however, points to a higher issue – that a relationship with God is more important than material goods.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The path (verse 15)</u> is the person who says “No” to Jesus. Satan is pictured in the birds taking away the Word. This person remains uninterested in the Word of God. 2. <u>The rocky ground (verses 16-17)</u> is the person who at first receives the word with joy, goes on well for a time but when hard times come, decides the cost is too great and abandons the whole thing. Hard times reveal that the person’s heart has not changed, and their faith is insincere. 3. <u>The thorny ground (verses 18-19)</u> are people who make a good start and seem to be true Christians. However, they become more interested in business, riches and worldly things and abandon any claim to be Christians; they are ‘unfruitful’. 4. <u>The good ground (verse 20)</u> are the people who accept the Word, recognise their need for forgiveness and follow God faithfully whatever it costs. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 3. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – the Sower</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This parable illustrates that possessions are not the most important things in life. Christians believe that everything they have has been given to them by God and is meant to be used for His glory. The foolish man should have shared his many possessions with those in need. 2. He had planned the future – notice his independence of God by his use of ‘I’ and ‘my’ in verses 17-19. God had other plans for this man’s life and told him he would die that night (verse 20). This foolish man had not thought about his eternal future. Refer to the warning in Amos 4:12. 3. Point out how God asks a very solemn question in this parable, “Who will get what you have prepared for yourself?” (verse 20) 4. The foolish man had missed the point of life. He should have been sharing his wealth and acting with concern for others instead of greedily wanting more. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 3. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – A foolish man</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Ensure pupils understand the differences in the four types of soil. Engage in discussion about the varying degrees of ‘fruitfulness’ in verse 20; thirty, sixty and a hundred times what was sown. Explain that for Christians, the most productive lives are lived by those who obey God’s Word.</p>	<p>Consider how Proverbs 11: 4 & 29 and Matthew 6: 19-21 really summarise this lesson. Also, look up Exodus 20: 17 with regard to coveting the possessions of others.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do the types of ground represent a person’s heart? 2. Think of some ways in which Christians could be ‘fruitful’ for Jesus. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the Bible’s teaching about the real purpose of a person’s life “For to me to live is Christ” (Paul in Philippians 1: 21). 2. The importance of using possessions for the good of others. Make a list of some ideas. 3. Discuss the consequences of being greedy and the effect this can have on others.

Levels 3 & 4	B1 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – Parables Topic – Forgiving others	B1 – LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Parables Topic – The great supper
	<p>Bible Focus: Matthew 18: 21-35</p> <p>Key Verse: Ephesians 4: 32</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This parable was told to teach Christians how to forgive. 2. The Bible teaches that Christians should be unlimited in their forgiveness of others. 	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 14: 15-24</p> <p>Key Verse: John 6: 37</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians have accepted God's invitation of Eternal Life. 2. The Bible teaches that Christians have a responsibility to persuade others to respond to God's invitation.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Explain the problem that Peter had about forgiveness. Explain that he knew that in the Old Testament a person was forgiven three times or four at most (Amos 2: 6). As a disciple of Jesus, Peter feels he should be more generous and suggests seven times (verse 21). However, Jesus replies 'seventy times seven' which really means an unlimited approach to the forgiveness of others.</p>	<p>In the East, people of rank would have sent out two calls to a planned feast. The first call indicated preparation was needed and the second call indicated that the feast was ready. In this case those invited had no intention of attending and made up excuses for refusing.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the master of the servant realised the debtor was unable to pay his huge debt, he was moved with compassion towards him and cleared his debt (verses 25-27). This was an act of mercy, holding back the punishment the servant deserved. 2. The forgiving servant should have forgiven his fellow servant who owed a very small debt (approximately £5) in comparison with what he owed himself (approximately £1million). He forgot the mercy shown to him. 3. Jesus made the point that people should not keep track of how many times they forgive others. For Christians, their behaviour towards others should reflect God's behaviour towards them. 4. As sinners, Christians cannot pay their debt of sin and need God's mercy to escape His punishment. They believe that Jesus paid this debt on the cross when He gave "His life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20: 28) <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Forgiving Others</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many people were invited to the feast, but they turned down the invitation because the timing was inconvenient. 2. The three excuses were not genuine in that, in each case, arrangements could have been made to allow attendance. <u>First Excuse (verse 18)</u>; Whilst he apologises, it is difficult to believe a Jew would buy land without seeing it and since the supper was at night he would not be able to see it anyway. <u>Second Excuse (verse 19)</u>; This man is more defiant, gives no apology, and feels his oxen comes first. <u>Third Excuse (verse 20)</u>; This man made a poor excuse but could have brought his wife to the feast had he not been so selfish. 3. This <u>First Excuse</u> represents those who put more importance on material possessions, the <u>Second Excuse</u> are those who are too busy in their occupations, and the <u>Third Excuse</u> represents those whose home responsibilities take up their time. 4. The host is displeased and feels insulted at these excuses and sends his servant out to the 'streets and alleys of the town' to invite the poor, lame and blind (verses 21 & 23). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – The Great Feast</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Explain the terms 'mercy' and 'grace'. Discuss how this passage demonstrates both 'mercy' and 'grace'. For further study, read Titus 3: 5 and Ephesians 2: 8 and discuss how a Christian has experienced God's mercy.</p>	<p>Explain that the primary application of this parable is that those who rejected the Gospel were the Jews and then it was offered to the Gentile nations who were more responsive. The Bible teaches that those who persist rejecting God's mercy and grace will find that one day it is too late, and the offer of Eternal Life is no longer available.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why should a Christian forgive others? 2. Refer to Ephesians 4: 32 for other characteristics the Bible says a Christian should seek to display. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Bible teaches that all types of people are welcome at the Feast. How should Christians view others in light of this? 2. Think of some of the excuses people make today for not trusting in Jesus.

Levels 3 & 4	B2 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – Miracles Topic – Water into wine	B2 – LEVEL 4 Study 1 – Miracles Topic – Water into Wine
	<p>Bible Focus: John 2: 1-11</p> <p>Key Verse: John 2: 11</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weddings in Bible times were often week-long festivals which celebrated the new life of the married couple. 2. Christians believe that Jesus took time out from His preaching/teaching to spend quality time with people, show them His love and celebrate with them in their times of joy. 	<p>Bible Focus: John 2: 1-11</p> <p>Key Verses: John 15: 14, John 2: 5</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Bible times, it was considered an insult to refuse a wedding invitation. Weddings were considered important social occasions. 2. Christians believe that by performing this miracle, Jesus was revealing to all present that He was no ordinary human, but in fact God's Son.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Introduce the ideas of an Eastern wedding. Perhaps show the pupils an example from a YouTube clip and discuss the similarities/differences with a Western wedding.</p>	<p>Ask the pupils to discuss the concept of 'miracle'. Explain that the Gospel of John is built around seven miracles, all performed in public, of which the wedding in Cana of Galilee is the first. See John 4: 46-54, John 5: 1-15, John 6: 5-14, John 6: 16-24, John 9: 1-7, John 11: 1-45. There was an eighth miracle performed in private for the disciples, after the resurrection, in the miraculous catch of 153 fishes (John 21: 1-11).</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A wedding took careful planning as many guests were invited. Running out of wine would have been considered more than just embarrassing, almost insulting. 2. Mary believed that Jesus would be able to help. She turned to Him in a time of crisis in the same way Christians turn to God today. 3. The six stone water jars were used for ceremonial washing and held 20-30 gallons. 4. This miracle showed Jesus as the Son of God and further strengthened the disciples' faith. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 1. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Water into wine</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus, his mother and disciples, were all invited guests at the wedding. Tradition states that Joseph was dead at this point. 2. Mary pointed the servants to Jesus and in her last recorded words tells them: "Whatever He says to you, do it!" This highlights her complete trust in Him. 3. The best wine was served at the end of this wedding, but usual practise was to serve the best wine at the start. 4. When the disciples saw Jesus' miracle they believed. They recognised His power over nature as miraculous. Their faith in Jesus was deepened. <p>Explain the Key Verses and encourage pupils to learn them. Complete Study 1. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Water into wine</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this miracle by asking the pupils some revision questions. Make the point that not all of the guests witnessed Jesus' miracle. It was not yet time for Jesus to reveal who He really was. This miracle marked the start of His public ministry.</p>	<p>Review this miracle by asking the pupils some revision questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss what Jesus meant when he said, "My time has not yet come." 2. Would there have been consequences if Jesus' identity had been revealed too soon?
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How important is it for Christians to spend time socially in the company of others? 2. Read Proverbs 3: 5-6 to find out how Christians trust God to help them in times of need. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should Christians take time to attend social events? Why? 2. Discuss the importance of reading the Bible and praying regularly in the life of a Christian.

Levels 3 & 4	B2 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – Miracles Topic – A boy healed	B2 – LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Miracles Topic – The boy healed
	<p>Bible Focus: John 4: 43-54</p> <p>Key Verse: John 4: 50</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The royal official's son was very sick, at the point of death, but was made well again by Jesus. 2. The royal official took Jesus at His word and obediently went on his way. 	<p>Bible Focus: John 4: 43-54</p> <p>Key Verses: Acts 16: 31; Romans 10: 9</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The royal official's son was at the point of death. His father had faith in Jesus to restore him back to life again. 2. Christians believe that God offers Everlasting Life to those who trust in His Son and obey His Word.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Remind pupils that on His first visit to Cana, Jesus turned water into wine.</p> <p>Use the map on the lesson to show that although Jesus was in Cana, the boy was in Capernaum. Jesus' power was felt there, even though He was not physically present.</p>	<p>Remind pupils that it was in Cana that Jesus performed His first miracle. His fame had spread so much that the boy's father, an official in Herod's palace, humbly asked him to heal his son.</p> <p>This man thought that Jesus would have to be physically present at the boy's bedside to heal him. Jesus did not rebuke him for his lack of faith but rewarded him for the faith he did show. Point out that the man 'took Jesus at His word and departed' (v 50). His faith was not based on the miracle but based on Jesus' words alone – he believed first and then saw!</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This boy's father was a Jew and an officer of King Herod. He had legal authority over Jesus but showed his respect for Him by addressing Him as 'Sir'. He had walked 20 miles to plead with Jesus to come and heal his son. 2. The boy's father thought that Jesus would have needed to come with him to heal his son, but Jesus told him that his son would live. The man believed Jesus' word and started travelling home. When he asked the servants what time the boy was cured, their answer assured him that it was at the exact same time Jesus had told him the boy was healed. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 2. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – A boy healed</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sick son and the fathers request: The man was so desperate to see his sick son healed that he was prepared to walk a long distance to meet Jesus. 2. Jesus' reply: Jesus was testing the man's faith when He told him 'Your son will live' (verse 50). People then, just like people now, wanted to see signs and wonders (verse 48) instead of accepting God's Word at face value: faith first then sight! 3. The Result: The man believed, his son was healed and his whole family believed as a result. Christians today have taken God at His Word, trusted, and obeyed. The end result for them will be Eternal Life in Heaven. <p>Explain the Key Verses and encourage pupils to learn them. Complete Study 2. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – A boy healed</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Learn the Key Verse, John 4: 50, and discuss how it summarises this lesson. The power of Jesus had not only healed the man's son but his whole family now believed in Jesus (John 4: 53).</p>	<p>Reflect on this statement from Hebrews 11: 6; 'Without faith it is impossible to please God' and discuss how this refers to what the pupils have just learned.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The man trusted Jesus at His word and obeyed. What can Christians learn from this man's example? 2. For Christians, does Jesus need to be physically present to work a miracle or answer prayer today? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The man believed Jesus and set off for home – he was putting his faith in action. Think of ways in which a Christian can put their faith in action at home and at school. 2. How does placing faith in Jesus challenge the culture we live in today? (Refer to people who want to see first and then believe, as opposed to faith first and then seeing God's work in a Christian's life.)

Levels 3 & 4	B2 LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – Miracles Topic – Blind eyes opened	B2 – LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Miracles Topic – Blind Bartimaeus
	<p>Bible Focus: Mark 10: 46-52</p> <p>Key Verse: Mark 10: 52</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bartimaeus was blind but he had faith that Jesus could heal him. 2. Jesus showed compassion towards Bartimaeus and answered his prayer. 	<p>Bible Focus: Mark 10: 46-52</p> <p>Key Verse: Mark 10: 52</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bartimaeus was persistent in his calling out to Jesus. His persistence moved Jesus to compassion. 2. Bartimaeus was willing to leave his only material possession (his cloak) behind to come to Jesus.
INTRODUCE IT	Ask the pupils if they know of anyone who is blind. Talk about the difficulties a blind person faces in life. Discuss how blind people may be helped, but physical blindness cannot be cured.	Explain how there would have been very little, if any, support for blind people in the time of Jesus and that many were reduced to begging in order to survive. Contrast the situation today by researching some charities dedicated to the cause of the blind.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blind Bartimaeus, a Jew, believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of David. The Jews generally did not believe this to be the case. 2. Bartimaeus had faith in Jesus' power to heal him. He persisted in calling for help so that his sight could be restored. For Christians, the fact that Jesus, the Son of God 'stood still / stopped' (verse 49) at the cry of this beggar, showed His great compassion and love towards those in need. 3. In Bible times a beggar's cloak was precious to them as they used it to collect money and keep warm. Bartimaeus threw his cloak aside as he came to Jesus, desperate to be healed. 4. Bartimaeus demonstrated his thanks to Jesus by being a faithful follower of Him, on His last trip to Jerusalem, before His crucifixion. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 3. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Blind eyes opened</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is the only time in the Gospel of Mark that the term 'Son of David' is used in reference to Jesus. Bartimaeus recognised that Jesus was the Messiah and had faith that He could heal him. 2. This may have been Bartimaeus' last chance to meet Jesus, as He was on His way to Jerusalem to the cross. 3. Bartimaeus threw away his only valuable possession – his cloak, in order to come to Jesus. For Christians today, anything that would hinder their relationship with Jesus, must be put aside. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 3. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Blind Bartimaeus</p>
REVIEW IT	Draw their attention to the short request / prayer of Bartimaeus in verse 51 and the quick response to it by Jesus in verse 52 . Bartimaeus expressed his simple faith and Jesus honoured it.	Look up Matthew 4: 18-22 and find others who immediately left what they were doing and followed Jesus. Look up Ephesians 6: 10-18 and Colossians 3: 8-17 From these Bible Readings, make a list of six main things that should characterise a Christian's Life.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bartimaeus' request was short and genuine. What can we learn about prayer from Bartimaeus' example? 2. Once Bartimaeus was healed He followed Jesus. His gratefulness was clear to see. How does this relate to a Christian's life? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bartimaeus had experienced physical darkness. Read John 8: 12 and consider what it means to leave spiritual darkness and to "Walk in the Light."

Levels 3 & 4	B2 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – Miracles Topic - Ten men with leprosy healed	B2 – LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Miracles Topic – Ten men with leprosy
	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 17: 11-19</p> <p>Key Verse: Psalm 107: 8</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ten men in the story had leprosy – an infectious skin disease that isolated them from their community. 2. Jews and Samaritans despised each other, but it was the Samaritan who returned to thank Jesus for his healing. 	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 17: 11-19</p> <p>Key Verses: Ephesians 2: 8-9</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians believe that they have been healed from the disease of sin through faith in Jesus. 2. The Bible teaches that it is important to be thankful for all of the good things we have, as these have been given to us by God.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Explain that leprosy is a disease of the skin that still affects a large number of people in the world.</p> <p>Refer to Leviticus 13: 45-46 and explain that lepers were regarded as unclean in the time of Moses and had to live alone.</p>	<p>Explain that leprosy is a very infectious skin disease which still exists in the world today. It is estimated that 20 million people have this disease. Some may have heard of 'The Leprosy Mission' – an organisation that exists to help those who have this disease.</p> <p>Refer to other Bible characters who suffered from leprosy. See also Leviticus 13: 45-46.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story: Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The lepers were not allowed to mix with people, so they cried to Jesus for help / pity from a distance. 2. In obedience to Jesus, the lepers started out towards the priests' house and as they went they were healed. 3. It was the priests who gave them permission to return to their families. 4. Only one leper, a Samaritan, returned to thank Jesus for healing him. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – 10 men with leprosy healed</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The lepers were unable to cure themselves but called out to Jesus for mercy (verse 13). 2. When Jesus said 'Go' (verse 14), the lepers obeyed His word and were cleansed on their way to the priests' house. Obedience and simple faith in Jesus' spoken word brought cleansing. 3. One leper only, a Samaritan, humbly returned to thank and worship (verse 16) Jesus for the gift of healing. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – 10 men with leprosy</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review the lesson by reminding pupils how leprosy sufferers were treated at the time of Jesus. Consider how it must have felt to be treated as an outcast. Think of people in today's society who may feel like outcasts. What practical things could be done to support / encourage these people?</p>	<p>Make the point that the lepers had to demonstrate their faith in Jesus before they were healed. It was as they walked to the priests' house that their leprosy left them. Christians today have put their faith in Jesus in order to be healed / cleansed from their sin.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What should a Christian be thankful for? Make a list and write a prayer of thankfulness that a Christian could use. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss what being thankful to God really means for a Christian (1 John 1: 7) and how it should affect their lives (Psalm 40: 3).

Levels 3 & 4	B3 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – Bethany Topic – Two sisters	B3 – LEVEL 4 Study 1 – Bethany Topic – In the home
	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 10: 38-42</p> <p>Key Verse: Luke 10: 42</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For Christians, Jesus values affection for Him above service. 2. In a Christian's life, duties at home or in school should not take preference over prayer and time spent reading God's Word. 	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 10: 38-42</p> <p>Key Verse: Mark 6: 31</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians feel it is important to spend time reading the Bible in order to mature in their faith and get to know God better. 2. Christians want to pray to God in order to thank Him for all the things He provides e.g. material items, spiritual guidance.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Ask pupils to imagine how special it would be to have someone important visit their homes. Mary and Martha's home was only one of the homes Jesus visited. Ask pupils if they know of any other before checking the references below: Luke 4: 38, Luke 7: 37, Luke 8: 51, Luke 19: 5. Make the point that for Christians, God should be evident in the home.</p>	<p>Explain that Mary and Martha both loved Jesus. On this occasion, each of them was involved in serving Him. Martha didn't realise that in being so busy she was actually neglecting her guest – Jesus – she hadn't time to listen to Him and learn from Him. Ask pupils what they consider priorities in their lives. For Christians, 'busyness' should not replace time spent in prayer and Bible study.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whilst Martha was the 'worker' and Mary was the 'worshipper', for Christians, work and worship should go hand in hand. Discuss the meaning of worship. 2. Although Martha wanted to honour Jesus, He was more interested in their fellowship and so He spoke of Mary as having 'chosen what is better' (verse 42). Jesus wanted both Mary and Martha to understand how important it is to hear His Word (1 Peter 2: 2). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - Two Sisters</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus focused His attention on prayer and Bible study. This sets an example for Christians today. 2. Jesus did not blame Martha for being concerned about housework but gently corrected her for not having her priorities right. 3. Jesus points out in verse 42 that love for Him, and time spent with Him is more important than service. This challenges Christians today to aspire to being 'Marys' rather than 'Marthas'. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - In the home</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>It is interesting to note that Mary 'sat at Jesus' feet' (verse 39). For Christians, Mary's humble position demonstrated her respect towards Jesus.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask the pupils to think of ways Christians today can show respect towards Jesus. 2. The people in the following references were all found to be at Jesus' feet: Matthew 28: 9, Mark 5: 22, Luke 7: 38, Luke 8: 35. Divide the pupils into groups and ask them to look up these verses. Find out who sat at Jesus' feet and why this was significant. 	<p>Use the Key Verse to emphasise the following Christian beliefs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taking time to rest and listen to Jesus is important for effective Christian service (Mark 6: 31). 2. A hardworking attitude should accompany daily tasks given by God (Mark 6: 7-13) (Romans 12: 1). 3. God promises to provide strength to those who trust in Him (Isaiah 40: 31).
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To balance worship and work in daily life. 2. To live in a way that brings Jesus honour and respect. 3. To be more concerned about serving 'well' than serving 'much'. 4. To make sure that work does not come before reading the Bible and prayer. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To re-evaluate priorities – Prayer and Bible Study. 2. To make sure Christian service does not become weakened due to lack of rest or a casual attitude.

Levels 3 & 4	B3 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – Bethany Topic – Sorrow turned to joy!	B3 – LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Bethany Topic – At the tomb
	<p>Bible Focus: John 11: 1-7 and 17-44 Key Verse: John 11: 25</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians believe that Jesus is the only person with power over death. 2. Christians have received the gift of Eternal Life because Jesus has rescued them from sin (Ephesians 2: 1). 	<p>Bible Focus: John 11: 1-44 Key Verses: John 11: 25-26</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For Christians, Lazarus rising from the dead showed Jesus' power over death. Resurrection is crucial to the Christian faith. Jesus had not only the power to raise Himself (John 10: 18) but to raise others. 2. Jesus wept openly (verse 35) showing Christians today that He cares enough to weep with them in their trials and sorrows.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Ask pupils to recall some of the miracles which Jesus did and discuss which of these might be considered the greatest.</p> <p>This was the last miracle in the public ministry of Jesus. Some of the Jews questioned why He allowed Lazarus to die, since He was able to heal the blind man (verse 37). Christians believe He could have done so, but by raising Lazarus from the dead, He was showing the truth and power of His words in verse 25: 'I am the resurrection.'</p>	<p>Introduce by explaining that the raising of Lazarus from the dead was the last of seven miracles in John's Gospel. It convinced many of the Jews present that Jesus was the Son of God and they believed in Him. However, some of the Jews present who also witnessed this miracle would not believe and reported back to the Pharisees what had happened in Bethany. They were probably seeking to put Jesus to death. Advise pupils that it is still the same today; there are those who accept that Jesus was God and could do miracles and there are those who deny this and dispute the fact that He did miracles.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus in Bethany was one of the homes Jesus loved to be in. This presents a model to Christians today Hebrews 13: 16. 2. Just as Jesus raised Lazarus from death to life, Christians today believe He offers them Eternal Life – a relationship with Him now and everlasting life in Heaven. 3. This story shows us that for Christians, Jesus is a sympathetic Saviour; 'Jesus wept' (verse 35) and the Jewish people around that day could see how much Jesus loved Lazarus (verse 36). He also loved them but many of them did not understand this. 4. When Jesus called Lazarus from the grave, he had new life; he was 'loosed' from the graveclothes (verse 44) and was a living witness to the power of Jesus in his life; a truth Christians today also claim. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 2. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - Sorrow turned to joy!</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mary and Martha turned to Jesus for help when their brother died because they had seen His miracles. 2. Jesus loved this family but did not respond to their request immediately. Christians believe that Lazarus had to die so that Jesus' power over death could be shown to His disciples and the other Jews present. 3. Jesus wept because He felt the loss of Lazarus. 4. Jesus spoke to a dead man, and he heard and responded! <p>Explain the Key Verses and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 2. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - At the Tomb</p>
REVIEW IT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For Christians, just as Lazarus was given new life (verses 44-45) so those who trust in Jesus are given new life. Look at Colossians 2: 13 and 2 Timothy 1: 10, to find out how Jesus can give 'dead' sinners 'new life.' 2. Just as Lazarus' new life was proof of the power of Jesus at work in his life, Christians today believe that Jesus gives those who trust in Him the power to live for Him (Ephesians 2: 10). 	<p>Review the Study by drawing a parallel with trials people face today. Christians believe that Jesus can bring good out of a bad situation. Refer to Romans 8: 28. Patience is necessary in order to overcome the frustration of a delayed or unexpected answer.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By being thankful for new life. 2. By sharing with others, the same love Jesus showed to Lazarus. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They have assurance of life after death but have a purpose in living – to spread God's love (Philippians 1: 22-23). 2. Jesus is with them in their trials – He cares enough to weep with them.

Levels 3 & 4	B3 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – Bethany Topic – Another visit	B3– LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Bethany Topic – At the table
	<p>Bible Focus: John 12: 1-11 Key Verse: 1 John 4: 19</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Christians love Jesus and want to find ways of expressing their thanks to Him. Christians believe it's important not to delay in serving Jesus but to wholeheartedly serve Him now. 	<p>Bible Focus: John 11: 55-57; 12 :1-11 Key Verse: Psalm 95: 6</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Christians believe there is nothing too valuable to give to Jesus. He is worthy of their very best. Christians aim to follow Jesus' instructions as outlined in the New Testament.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Explain how Bethany was a place of special memories to Jesus. Remind pupils that in the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus taught the importance of worship. In Lesson 2 Jesus showed he was 'the Resurrection' when He brought Lazarus back from the dead. In this lesson, He is present at a meal in their Bethany home.</p>	<p>This incident in John 12: 1-11 is generally thought to be the same one as in Mark 14: 3-9. Jesus praised Mary for her unselfish act of worship in anointing His feet with this very expensive perfume. Perfumes and spices played an important role in the burial of the dead – read Genesis 50: 2-3. Jesus replies to Mary's act of devotion in verse 7 by indicating that it was a preparation for His burial.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Christians believe that Mary, Martha and Lazarus were privileged to be in the company of Jesus, having a meal and enjoying friendship with Him (verse 2). Mary's anointing of Jesus' feet with expensive oil and washing them with her hair (verse 3), shows Christians today that there is nothing too valuable to give to Him - He is worthy of their very best. When Judas complained that the ointment should have been sold and money given to the poor (verse 5), Jesus reminded him that there would always be poor people in the world to whom others could show kindness. He on the other hand, was on His way to the cross to die for sinners. His time was short. The chief priests wanted to put Lazarus to death (verse 10). Suggest this may have been because they didn't believe in the concept of resurrection. Lazarus was the evidence that Jesus had power to bring the dead back to life. This was why many had deserted the chief priests to follow Jesus. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - Another visit</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Home - Review the facts that the home at Bethany (verse 1) was a place of (i) service and instruction; (ii) worship and communion; and (iii) death and resurrection. The Feast (verse 2) was 'for Him.' Mary, Martha and Lazarus had every reason to meet with Him as their chief guest. The Anointing (verse 3) showed Mary loved Jesus – love often involves sacrifice. The Commendation (verse 7-9) was the highest ever given and Jesus indicated this act of worship would go down in history – Read Matthew 26: 13. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - At the Table</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>This same story is told in Mark 14: 3-9. Read verse 8 to find out what Jesus said about this woman who anointed his feet. Read Matthew's account of this story, Matthew 26: 6-13, and see how Jesus not only forecasted the preaching of the Gospel after His death, but also that this woman's act of devotion would be told in memory of her.</p>	<p>Ask the pupils questions when reviewing this Study that will help them give thorough answers to the questions asked in Study 3 e.g.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why did people still treat Jesus with suspicion despite this amazing 'death to life' miracle? Mary used ointment worth a year's wages – what does this suggest about her attitude to Jesus?
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How might a Christian's love for Jesus influence others? Many of the Jews believed in Jesus (verse 11) because they could see the evidence of His power in the new life of Lazarus. How might a Christian today display Jesus' power / the concept of new life? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Home – Is Jesus evident in their home? The Feast – Is Jesus their first priority? The Anointing – How much do they love Jesus? Do they give Him their best? The Commendation – Jesus said that Mary did what she could (Mark 14: 8). Are Christians today doing everything they can for Jesus?

Levels 3 & 4	B3 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – Bethany Topic – On to Jerusalem	B3 – LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Bethany Topic – On the way to Jerusalem
	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 19: 28-44 Key Verse: John 1: 12</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, His followers burst out in song, praising Him for all the mighty works He did amongst them. 2. Jesus weeps over the city of Jerusalem because the people rejected Him and had no room for Him. 	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 19: 28-41 Key Verse: John 1: 12</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians believe that Jesus is pleased to use their faith, love, worship, service and possessions for His honour and Glory. 2. Christians believe that Jesus needs to be a priority in people's lives now, as one day this opportunity will no longer exist.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Introduce the idea that "Palm Sunday" did not happen by chance. It had been prophesied years before. Refer to Zechariah 9: 9 where Jesus' triumphal entry was predicted about 500 years before it actually took place.</p>	<p>Introduce by pointing out that Jesus wept over Jerusalem (verse 41-42). They had missed their opportunity to receive Him as Messiah which would have meant peace for them. Now it was too late, and He warns of disastrous consequences in the years ahead for the Jewish nation. As Jesus predicted in 30AD, (Luke 19: 43-44) the Roman General, Titus, laid siege to Jerusalem (AD70) and destroyed the Temple and massacred its inhabitants. Jesus visited Jerusalem with the offer of salvation, but they had no room for Him and so disaster would come.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The triumphal entry (verses 28-40) of Jesus at the beginning of the week of His crucifixion. 2. The disciples burst out in praise (verse 37). Note they cried "Peace in Heaven" and not "Peace on earth" because the death of Jesus and His ascension would bring "peace in Heaven." There would be no "peace on earth" for they were about to kill Jesus – the Prince of Peace. 3. Jesus weeps over Jerusalem because of its people's rejection of Him and now it was too late – they had missed their opportunity (verse 42). 4. Jesus indicates that in AD 70, under Titus, a Roman General, Jerusalem and its people would be destroyed because they did not know 'the time of their visitation' (verse 44), meaning He had offered them salvation, but they did not want it. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - On to Jerusalem</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Entry into Jerusalem – Jesus entered Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey's colt, as predicted in Zechariah 9: 9. Those who witnessed Jesus' victory parade into Jerusalem saw Him as the fulfilment of this prophecy predicted over 500 years before it happened. 2. The Time of the Entry into Jerusalem – Jesus chose a time when all Israel would be gathered at Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. 3. The Hopes of the People – the people were praising God for giving them a king whom they expected to be a national leader. However, when they realised He was establishing an eternal kingdom they turned against Him. 4. The Response of the Pharisees – the Pharisees objected to Jesus being publicly honoured and asked him to keep His people quiet and Jesus rebukes them for being harder than stones! <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - On the way to Jerusalem</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Reflect on the story and discuss the importance Christians place on trusting Jesus as their personal Saviour. Refer to 2 Corinthians 6: 2 and consider the implications for the world.</p>	<p>Review this Study by setting it in the context of Jesus' life. Jerusalem was the centre of religious and political power and home to the Jews and Roman Governor. Many of the most important events of Jesus' life happened here including the crucifixion and resurrection. His last week was all spent here.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do Christians mean when they say they have turned from sin and trusted in Jesus for salvation? 2. The Key Verse refers to those who have received Jesus as: 'sons of God.' What does this mean? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the offer of Eternal Life always available? 2. In what ways could Jesus use a Christian's life? 3. The prophecy in Zechariah 9: 9 came true. How does this impact a Christian's view on the prophecies regarding the Second Coming?

Levels 3 & 4	B4 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – Jesus Topic – Dying	B4 – LEVEL 4 Study 1 – The Lord Jesus Topic – His death
	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 23: 1-26 and 32-46</p> <p>Key Verse: Luke 23: 33</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pilate could find no fault with Jesus but chose to listen to the crowd's demands. 2. Jesus was crucified with a thief on either side of Him. 	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 23: 32-56</p> <p>Key Verses: John 15: 13,14</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians believe that they are sinners, deserving God's punishment. 2. Christians believe that Jesus took their punishment when He died and rose again.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Introduce this lesson by asking pupils what they understand as the significance of Easter. Explain that this lesson tells the story of the first Easter. Discuss how this lesson shows that people have different attitudes towards Jesus. One thief recognised Him as the Son of God, one did not.</p>	<p>Briefly describe the events leading up to the cross, including the arrest, trials, and walk to Calvary. Explain that for Christians, Jesus' interaction with the two thieves on the cross symbolises the different attitudes people have towards Him today.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pilate could find no fault in Jesus but condemned Him to death to please the people (verses 1-7, 13-25). 2. Although Pilate and Herod were enemies, they became friends and were both on the same side, against Jesus (verse 12). 3. The six hours of crucifixion (9am-3pm) – Jesus in the middle and a thief on either side is a fulfilment of Isaiah 53: 12. 4. There were two thieves (verses 39-43) but only one recognised Jesus as the Son of God. 5. Three hours of darkness (verses 44-46) and the veil of the Temple torn in two shows that for Christians, Jesus is the way to God Hebrews 10: 19-20. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - Dying.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The six hours of crucifixion is fulfilment of Isaiah 53: 12 (9am-3pm). 2. The story of the repentant thief (23: 43) shows he went to Heaven despite not been baptised or having experienced any other sacrament. For Christians, salvation is based on repentance and faith. 3. The two thieves are representative of people – those who love Jesus and those who disregard Him. 4. Christians believe that during the three hours of darkness (verses 44-46), Jesus suffered for their sins and through His death restored their relationship with God. 5. The story shows (verses 50-56) that Joseph, although a secret disciple, was a true friend of Jesus as were the faithful women mentioned. This was demonstrated by the dignified burial given to the Jesus. <p>Explain the Key Verses and encourage pupils to learn them. Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - His Death.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review the lesson by asking pupils to read Isaiah 53: 12 which was written over 700 years before the death of Jesus. The inspiration of the Bible could be discussed here.</p> <p>In groups write some newspaper headlines to describe the scene at the cross.</p>	<p>Review the lesson by asking pupils to read Isaiah 53 which was written over 700 years before the death of Jesus and discuss how it mirrors Luke 23: 32-56. The inspiration of the Bible could be discussed here.</p> <p>In groups make a list of some of the prophecies mentioned in Isaiah 53 which were fulfilled at the cross.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can Christians be sure their sins are forgiven? 2. What can Christians learn from Jesus' attitude to forgiveness in this passage? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reflecting on Joseph's example, how can Christians demonstrate God's love today? 2. Think of specific examples of when it can be difficult to show forgiveness and reflect on Jesus' attitude to the thief who said 'sorry'.

Levels 3 & 4	B4 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – Jesus Topic – Rising	B4- LEVEL 4 Study 2 – The Lord Jesus Topic – His Resurrection
	<p>Bible Focus: John 20: 1-18</p> <p>Key Verse: Romans 10: 9</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After three days in the tomb Jesus rose from the dead. 2. Mary Magdalene showed her love for Jesus. 	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 8: 1-3, John 20: 1-18</p> <p>Key Verse: Romans 10: 9</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians believe that Jesus defeated death when He rose again. 2. Mary Magdalene was a very devoted follower of Jesus.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Discuss the meaning of ‘resurrection’ and ask pupils to recall names of people Jesus brought back from the dead (Lazarus - John 11: 44, Jairus’ daughter - Luke 8: 55). For Christians, the power of resurrection belongs to Jesus.</p>	<p>Discuss the meaning of ‘resurrection’ and ask pupils to recall names of people Jesus brought back from the dead (Lazarus - John 11: 44, Jairus’ daughter - Luke 8: 55). For Christians, the power of resurrection belongs to Jesus. Make the point that Christians believe in a future resurrection of the dead.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mary Magdalene, Peter and John saw evidence of the resurrection – an empty tomb. 2. Peter and John went home but Mary Magdalene kept a lonely vigil outside the tomb. 3. Jesus rewarded her devotion by appearing to her in person. He explained to her that He would send His Holy Spirit as a helper. 4. He sends her to go and tell the disciples that He is alive and that they must meet Him in Galilee. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - Rising</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mary Magdalene proved her devotion to Jesus by being first at the empty tomb. 2. Mary Magdalene, Peter and John saw the evidence of the resurrection and also saw the neat and tidy arrangement of the grave clothes. Suggest that this may imply that Jesus’ departure was orderly and unhurried, so refuting the argument the body was stolen. 3. Jesus rewarded Mary’s devotion by appearing to her in person. He promised to send the Holy Spirit as a helper. 4. He sends her to go and tell the disciples that He is alive and that they must meet Him in Galilee. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - His Resurrection.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Connect this lesson with the following references in the New Testament where Jesus spoke of His resurrection. Discuss the importance and the significance of the resurrection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew 16: 21, 17:23, 20:19 • Luke 18: 33, 24: 7 • 1 Corinthians 15: 3-4 	<p>Connect this lesson with 1 Corinthians 15: 3-8, 12-20 and show how verse 4 refers to Isaiah 53: 9 and Psalms 16: 9-10. Discuss the various people who saw Jesus after his resurrection (verses 5-8) and why the resurrection is so important (verse 20).</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The significance of serving a living God. 2. Consider how a Christian’s love for God should affect their lives. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus’ resurrection was a fulfilment of Biblical prophecy. Discuss further examples of Old Testament prophecies which have been, or have yet to be fulfilled e.g. Jesus’ birthplace, genealogy, betrayal, second coming.

Levels 3 & 4	B4 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – Jesus Topic – Leaving	B4 – LEVEL 4 Study 3 – The Lord Jesus Topic – His Ascension
	<p>Bible Focus: John 20: 19-29; Luke 24: 50-53</p> <p>Key Verse: Luke 24: 51</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians believe that God speaks to them through the Bible. 2. The purpose of John's Gospel is stated in John 20:31 - that those who read it might believe and have eternal life. 	<p>Bible Focus: Luke 24: 45-53; Acts 1: 1-12</p> <p>Key Verse: Luke 24: 51</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians are called by Jesus to be witnesses for Him/tell others about Him on earth. 2. Christians believe that one day Jesus is coming back to earth to take those who belong to Him to Heaven.
INTRODUCE IT	Discuss, with relevant examples, how we believe in many things we cannot see or touch. Explain how the Christian faith is not based on seeing but trusting in the Word of God, and in Jesus.	Discuss how we tend to treasure the last words spoken by those we love, especially before they die. Ask the pupils to research some famous last words of great men of history. Compare these with Jesus' last words before He was taken up to Heaven (Acts 1: 8-9).
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss Jesus' appearance to the disciples and note His words to them: "Peace be unto you" (verse 21). Explain that as a result of Jesus' death and resurrection, those who have believed by faith have true peace. 2. Jesus dealt gently with the faithless Thomas and convinced him He was the resurrected Christ. 3. Thomas responded with words of faith and commitment. 4. Jesus returned to Heaven from the Mount of Olives, 40 days after the resurrection. The disciples returned to the Temple to praise and thank God for His resurrection and the promise of His second coming. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - Leaving</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus commanded His disciples to be witnesses (Acts 1: 8) for Him in Jerusalem, in the land of Palestine and throughout the whole world. 2. Jesus ascended to Heaven from the Mount of Olives (verse 12) and Christians believe He will return again to the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14: 4). 3. He ascended in person and visibly. The Bible says that one day He will return personally again (Malachi 3: 1) and visibly (Matthew 24: 30). 4. He was received up in a cloud with power and glory and will come back on the clouds of Heaven with power and glory (Matthew 24: 30). <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - His Ascension.</p>
REVIEW IT	Learn the Key Verse and discuss how it summarises the lesson. Remind pupils that the disciples were also looking for the fulfilment of the promise made concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24: 49).	Look up the Bible References in Points 1-4 above and compare and contrast Jesus' return to Heaven after His resurrection, with His second coming again to earth.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can Christians believe in Jesus for salvation even though they have not seen Him? 2. Jesus encouraged His disciples to work for Him after He had ascended. What work can Christians do for Him now? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can Christians witness for Jesus at home, at school, or amongst friends? 2. Think about people who have left their own country to be missionaries in other parts of the world. 3. Consider the resurrection as a fact for which there is much evidence in the Bible.

Levels 3 & 4	B4 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – Jesus Topic – Returning	B4 – LEVEL 4 Study 4 – The Lord Jesus Topic – His Second Coming
	<p>Bible Focus: Acts 1: 4; 8-12</p> <p>Key Verse: Acts 1: 11</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians need the power of the Holy Spirit to witness or preach the Gospel. 2. Christians believe that Jesus ascended to Heaven and is going to return to earth again. He will then take Christians with Him to Heaven. 	<p>Bible Focus: John 14: 1-6; Acts 1: 9-11</p> <p>Key Verses: 1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus' second coming to earth is an event which Christians believe is certain to happen. The date or time is unknown. 2. At the second coming, the dead in Christ will be raised and taken up to Heaven with those Christians alive at the time.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk about what it means to be a witness e.g. at the scene of an accident. As the disciples witnessed for Jesus, they spoke about Him from their own personal experiences.</p> <p>Consider also that the power the disciples received to help them to witness is the same power Christians receive when they trust in Jesus as their personal saviour.</p>	<p>Remind the pupils that all of the prophecies from the Old Testament concerning Jesus' coming to earth as a man were fulfilled. Christians believe that this will be true of all the prophecies concerning His second coming. Discuss with the pupils how it is natural when someone we love goes away to long for his/her return. Christians should be longing for Jesus' return. Look up Titus 2: 13.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Study Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus commanded His disciples to be witnesses for Him firstly in Jerusalem, then in the land of Palestine and lastly throughout the whole world (Acts 1: 8). 2. The 'two men in shining garments' who met the women who came to the tomb (Luke 24: 4) told them it was empty, and that Jesus had risen from the dead. It was possibly the same angelic beings in the form of men who were now telling the disciples about the Second Coming (Acts 1: 10-11). 3. Christians believe that Jesus' return will be very similar to His Ascension. 4. The time of the second coming is unknown, so Christians believe it is vital to be ready. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - Returning</p>	<p>Present the Bible Study Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 'two men in white apparel' (Acts 1: 10-11) told the disciples about Jesus' second coming to earth. Make the link that it was possibly the same angelic beings in Luke 24: 4 who told the women at the tomb about the resurrection. 2. Compare Jesus' promise in John 14: 3 with Acts 1: 11 and explain both the accuracy and inspiration of the Scriptures. 3. Read 1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17 and explain the details of the second coming: There is a sound to hear – shout and trumpet. A sight to see – the Lord Himself. A miracle to feel – caught up. A meeting to enjoy – 'meet the Lord in the air'. A comfort to experience – 'with the Lord' forever. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn them. Complete Study 4.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - His Second Coming.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Turn to the following verses and show how Jesus spoke of His coming as 'a thief in the night' because nobody knows when a thief will come Matthew 24: 44, Luke 12: 20.</p>	<p>The second coming holds no fear for Christians. The Bible teaches that Christians should look forward to Jesus' appearing and live in a way that pleases Him. Refer to Titus 2: 11-14 and 1 John 3: 2-3.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When is the best time to get ready for Heaven according to 2 Corinthians 6: 2? 2. How important is it for Christians to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians should be living righteous lives and be found faithful to Him at His second coming. What does this mean? 2. Suggest ways in which Christians can be faithful witnesses for Christ.

Levels 3 & 4	B5 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – The Lord’s servants Topic – Prepared by God!	B5 – LEVEL 4 Study 1 – Early Christians Topic – Stephen
	<p>Bible Focus: Acts 1: 7-9; Acts 2: 1-13 Key Verses: John 14: 16-17</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the early days of the Christian Church, Jesus commanded the apostles to go and preach the Gospel locally and worldwide. 2. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit gives them power. He helps them in their Christian lives, in the same way He helped the apostles. 	<p>Bible Focus: Acts 6: 1-15; 7: 54-60 Key Verse: Acts 6: 8</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stephen was a bold witness for God. 2. A true Christian will want to witness for God, no matter what people say about them or do to them.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Ask the pupils to imagine what it must have been like for the disciples after Jesus had ascended, and when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. Explain how the Acts of the Apostles contains two main themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians believe that Jesus is now in Heaven. It is the Holy Spirit who works through them here on Earth. 2. Acts was written in 60-67AD. The resurrection and exaltation of Jesus forms its core message. 	<p>Discuss what is meant by persecution and think about modern day examples. Explain that in the early days of Christianity the religious leaders had considerable influence in government. The Christians respected and obeyed the government of the day unless the laws contradicted the laws of God.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A key verse in this book is Acts 1: 8 and the whole of Acts is modelled on it with regard to the geographical progress of the Gospel: Witnesses in Jerusalem – Chapters 1-7 Witnesses in Judea – Chapter 8: 1-4 Witnesses in Samaria – Chapter 8: 5-25 Witnesses in the World – Chapter 8: 26 2. On the ‘Day of Pentecost’ (2: 1) the Holy Spirit came to live in the hearts of Christians permanently. This is still true today when a person becomes a Christian. In Acts 2: 4 they were also filled with the Holy Spirit. When a Christian reads the Bible, spends time in prayer and lives obediently to God’s Word, they can experience a continual ‘filling’ of the Holy Spirit. 3. Christians believe that Jesus empowers them through His Holy Spirit so that they can spread the ‘Good News’ of His death, resurrection and offer of forgiveness to all. The Holy Spirit is referred to as the ‘Comforter’ in the Key Verse John 14: 16 as He helps, guides and supports Christians today. <p>Explain the Key Verses and encourage pupils to learn them. Complete Lesson 1. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - Prepared by God.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stephen possessed those qualities that should be evident in a Christian’s life: honesty, full of the Holy Spirit, full of faith and power, wisdom and service for Jesus (See Acts 6: 3, 5 & 8). 2. Opposition to Stephen’s powerful ministry arose from communities of Jews who had synagogues in or near Jerusalem. However, when Stephen appeared before the Sanhedrin, a Jewish court, they heard the false charges against him; they saw the glory of Jesus reflected in Stephen’s face (Acts 6: 15). 3. Stephen gives a very masterful defence (Acts 7: 1-53) and delivers a scathing attack on the Jewish leaders, charging them with resisting the Holy Spirit and eventually the crucifixion of Jesus. 4. Stephen must have known his life was at stake but would rather die than betray his Lord. As soon as he testified to seeing ‘the heavens opened’ (Acts 7: 56) the mob dragged him outside the city and stoned him to death. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 1. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - Stephen.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>The author of Acts (probably Dr. Luke) begins the book by referring to ‘all that Jesus began to do and teach’ (Acts 1: 1). In Acts 28: 31 Paul is still preaching the ‘Good News’ of the Gospel. Today, Christians believe that this work is still continuing and will not be finished until Jesus’ Second Coming.</p>	<p>Discuss how these verses summarise this lesson:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2 Timothy 2: 3 – ‘Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ’. 2. 1 Peter 4: 14 – “If you are insulted because of the name of Christ.”
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians should aim to be ‘filled with the Spirit’. Discuss Ephesians 5: 18. 2. When a Christian reads the Bible and prays, they will experience God’s guidance. How will they know this? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Just as Stephen was martyred for his beliefs in the death and resurrection of Jesus, so many Christians today are being persecuted, even killed, for the same beliefs. If possible, research the work of Open Doors. 2. How can Christians remain loyal and faithful to God when they are going through life-threatening situations?

Levels 3 & 4	B5 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – The Lord's servants Topic – Prepared to die!	B5 – LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Early Christians Topic – Philip
	<p>Bible Focus: Acts 6: 1-5, 8-15; 7: 54-60 Key Verse: Matthew 5: 44</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stephen began his work for God by serving tables (Acts 6: 2) before doing great wonders and miracles (Acts 6: 8). He was faithful with a small task before being assigned a greater role. 2. Stephen was prepared to give up his life in order to defend the 'Good News' of the Gospel. 	<p>Bible Focus: Acts 6: 5; 8: 4-17; 8: 26-40 Key Verse: Acts 8: 35</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Philip was a successful preacher of the Gospel who was willing to leave a revival in Samaria to go to Gaza to preach to one person in need. 2. Once he believed in Jesus as his Saviour, the Ethiopian was eager to obey Jesus' command in baptism and had great joy in his heart as he travelled home.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk about Christian persecution and give modern examples. Make the point that as the early Christians moved forward with the Gospel message, they faced opposition from the government and religious leaders of the day. Whilst they respected and obeyed their rulers, they were prepared to disobey human laws when they contradicted God's laws, even to the point of being martyrs.</p>	<p>Philip was one of the seven men chosen in Acts 6: 5 to look after church business. He later became an evangelist and brought the Gospel to Samaria. Whilst he was in the midst of a revival in Samaria, God called him to go into Gaza, desert country, to meet a stranger in need from Ethiopia. This was with a view to using Philip in both the Ethiopian man's conversion and baptism. Once this was achieved, Philip was miraculously removed and resumed the preaching of the Gospel in other places.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stephen is described as a Christian who was full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6: 3), full of grace and power (Acts 6: 8) and who was active in God's work (Acts 6: 8). 2. When arrested wrongly by the Jewish leaders, Stephen defended himself by reminding his accusers that not only had the Jewish nation continually rejected Jesus, but their ultimate crime was their crucifixion of the 'Righteous One' (Acts 7: 52). 3. Although surrounded by an enraged mob who stoned him to death, Stephen, like Jesus on the cross, commends his spirit to the Lord (Acts 7: 59). He then prays for his murderers and 'falls asleep' (Acts 7: 60). The word 'asleep' here refers to his body which is 'sleeping' until Jesus' Second Coming. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 2. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - Prepared to die.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Philip was obedient to God's command to go and preach to the Ethiopian. 2. The Ethiopian had come from Africa to Jerusalem to worship but left without any real understanding of the Gospel. He turned to the Bible to find help. 3. Philip, directed by God, arrived at the appropriate time and explained Isaiah 53 to him. He showed him how the chapter is all about the life and death of Jesus. 4. The Ethiopian believed in Jesus and was immediately baptised and went back home rejoicing. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 2. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - Philip.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Remind pupils how the Key Verse summarises this lesson. Emphasise the point that both Jesus and Stephen prayed for their murderers (Luke 23: 34 and Acts 7: 60) and both committed their spirits to God (Luke 23: 46 and Acts 7: 60).</p>	<p>Connect this study with Isaiah 53. Point out how this chapter was written between 740-680 BC and how Isaiah's prophesy so accurately foretells the death, burial, resurrection and exaltation of Jesus Christ.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why should Christians strive to be faithful in small tasks? 2. Why is it important to test Government laws against the Bible's teaching? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In what ways can Christians witness for God? 2. When asked to do a particular task by God, is there a delay, questions or immediate obedience?

Levels 3 & 4	B5 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – The Lord’s servants Topic – Prepared to listen!	B5 – LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Early Christians Topic – Cornelius
	<p>Bible Focus: Acts 8: 5; 26-40 Key Verse: Acts 16: 31</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Philip obeyed quickly and without question. This resulted in God using him to explain the Gospel to the Ethiopian. 2. The Ethiopian was full of joy as a result of his faith in Jesus and requested to be baptised. 	<p>Bible Focus: Acts 10: 1-8; 23-48 Key Verse: Acts 10: 43</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Gospel message is for everyone - Jews and Gentiles alike. 2. Cornelius and his household were some of the first Gentiles to become followers of Jesus.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Explain that sometimes, people who are Christians, feel called by God to do something that is completely different to what they might have expected.</p> <p>In Philip's case, he was seeing a great work being done for God in Samaria. However, God told him to leave the place where many were being converted and go to the desert area of Gaza. He was to be of spiritual help to one man, namely the Ethiopian.</p>	<p>Simply explain the situation between Jews and Gentiles, and how normally a Jew would have little contact and would not enter the house of a Gentile.</p> <p>Cornelius lived in the town of Caesarea. He was a Roman Officer (a Gentile), a Centurion, and a prominent man in terms of his military career. Although he lived an upright life and prayed to God, he did not know Jesus.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When Philip meets the Ethiopian, he is reading Isaiah 53: 7-8. Philip gets the opportunity to talk to him about the life and death of Jesus. 2. Philip explained to the Ethiopian that these verses in Isaiah speak of Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. It is at this point that the man recognises his need to put his trust in Jesus as his personal Saviour. 3. Philip explained the privilege of being baptised to the Ethiopian and when they came near water, Philip baptised him. The servants travelling with the Ethiopian were able to witness both his baptism and his newfound joy. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 3. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - Prepared to listen.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cornelius had a clear vision one day, around 3pm, in which an angel of God appeared to him and told him to send men to Joppa for Peter. 2. When Peter came to the house of Cornelius, there were others present as well to hear him preach. 3. Peter addressed the company by telling them at the outset that God does not show favouritism – salvation was for both Jews and Gentiles. 4. Peter preached to those present about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He finished by telling them that if they believed in Jesus they would receive forgiveness of sins. 5. Those Gentiles present were amongst the first Gentiles to become believers in Jesus and to be baptised. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 3. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - Cornelius.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Connect this lesson with Isaiah 53 and discuss verses 7 and 8 in particular. Like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, Jesus endured the cross. Christians believe that He was not given a fair trial, but willingly gave up His life to be crucified for their sins.</p>	<p>Consider Peter's position as a Jew entering a Gentile's house. Look at Acts 10: 9-17 to see how Peter was given guidance about what he should do, and how he should think about bringing the Gospel to the Gentiles.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For Christians, being obedient to God's instructions (like Philip), can result in a life changing effect on others (like the Ethiopian). 2. Christians believe that personal faith in Jesus should be followed up by baptism. Research methods of baptism. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians believe that the forgiveness of sins is available to all, regardless of race, culture or religion. How should this affect a Christian's behaviour towards others? 2. Christians believe that it's important to know God on a personal level. Why is this?

Levels 3 & 4	B5 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – The Lord’s servants Topic – Prepared to go!	B5 – LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Early Christians Topic – Barnabas
	<p>Bible Focus: Acts 10: 1-20; 24-29; 33-43</p> <p>Key Verse: Acts 10: 43</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whilst Cornelius was a very good man, he needed someone to tell him how he could become a Christian. 2. Peter learned, as a result of his vision that the Gospel is for all, not just for the Jews. 	<p>Bible Focus: Acts 4: 32-37; 9: 26-31; 11: 19-30</p> <p>Key Verse: Acts 11: 24</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Doing good does not make a person a Christian. 2. A Christian aims to do good because ‘goodness’ is one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in a Christian’s life (Galatians 5: 22).
INTRODUCE IT	<p>This lesson is set in Caesarea, a coastal town. Cornelius was a Roman military officer there, and as a Centurion, was in charge of one hundred men. He was attached to one of the Italian regiments and was a man who was seeking after God. He was a Gentile, but up to this point Peter had only brought the Gospel to his fellow Jews.</p>	<p>We are first introduced to Barnabas in Acts 4: 36. The meaning of his name is “son of encouragement”. He came from the island of Cyprus and the Bible tells us he sold land and brought the money and gave it to the Apostles. He was living up to his name in that his generosity would have been a great encouragement to the Apostles.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The angel told Cornelius in the vision to send men to Joppa, a town south of Caesarea, for Simon Peter. 2. The day after, Peter had a vision on the flat roof of Simon Peter’s house, where he had gone to pray. God revealed to Peter that the Gospel was not limited to the Jews only but was for the Gentiles as well. 3. When Peter arrived at the home of Cornelius, he admitted that he had believed God’s favour was limited to the nation of Israel, the Jews. Now, however, he had learned that God does not show favouritism (Acts 10: 34). 4. Peter preached the Gospel to those present and emphasised salvation was for ‘everyone who believes’ (Acts 10: 43). All who heard the message were filled with the Holy Spirit. Peter ordered that they be baptised, and this marked the beginning of the Gentiles’ entrance into the Church. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - Prepared to go.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barnabas was a devoted, unselfish servant of God. He used his time and possessions to help others. His desire was to see people coming to know Jesus and he wanted to help those who were in need of the basic necessities of life. As a result, he is referred to as ‘a good man’ (Acts 11: 24). 2. Barnabas showed kindness to Paul (Acts 9: 27). He spoke up for him when the Christians at Jerusalem were afraid to receive him. 3. Barnabas was sent by the Church in Jerusalem to encourage the new Church in Antioch and whilst he was there many turned to God. He encouraged the new Christians at Antioch to ‘be true to the Lord with all their hearts’ (Acts 11: 23). These were wise words spoken to new converts. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - Barnabas.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Learn the Key Verse and discuss how it summarises today’s lesson. Also, compare this with the phrase ‘everyone who believes’ in John 3: 15-16</p>	<p>Review the story by asking some revision questions, e.g.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In what ways was Barnabas seeking to help people? 2. How did Barnabas help Paul? 3. How important is it for Christians to encourage new converts?
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How should Christians share the Gospel with people from other nationalities? 2. Explain Acts 10: 34 in your own words. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can Christians demonstrate ‘goodness’ in their lives? 2. What does it mean for a Christian to be ‘true to the Lord’?

Levels 3 & 4	B6 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – The life of Joseph Topic – The young dreamer	B6 – LEVEL 4 Study 1 – Jacob and his family Topic – At Haran
	<p>Bible Focus: Genesis 37: 1-11 Key Verse: Genesis 37: 8</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When Joseph was seventeen years of age, God spoke to him in dreams and revealed to him that He had a plan for his life. Christians believe that God does not like jealousy and that it can lead to other destructive attitudes. 	<p>Bible Focus: Genesis 29: 1-30 Key Verse: Galatians 6: 7</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Christians believe that God is in full control of everything and His timing is perfect. For Christians, living a sinful life/behaving wrongly will lead to negative consequences ('you reap what you sow').
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Joseph was one of Jacob's sons and his mother's name was Rachel. He was a shepherd by occupation. He had a younger brother called Benjamin, and it was at Benjamin's birth that Joseph's mother Rachel, died.</p>	<p>Remind the pupils of Jacob's predecessors. Jacob was the son of Isaac and Rebekah; Esau was his brother. He lived in Beersheba and fled to Haran in Mesopotamia because Esau had planned to kill him, for robbing him of the birthright. Jacob was 77 years old when he left Beersheba. He spent 20 years serving his uncle Laban, 33 years back in Canaan and the last 7 years of his life in Egypt. The journey from Beersheba to Haran was about 500 miles.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph was hated by his brothers because he had told Jacob about the things they did wrong. Also, Jacob favoured him because he was Rachel's son, and had been born when Jacob was old. The coat of many colours (37: 3) was probably a long robe with sleeves and it highlighted Jacob's special affection for Joseph. However, it stirred up jealousy, hatred and envy in his brothers' hearts. In Joseph's first dream, the eleven sheaves bowing down to the twelfth was a prophecy that one day his brothers would bow down to him. The second dream was also prophetic of his brothers bowing down to him along with Jacob (the sun) and Leah, his stepmother (the moon) as Rachel had died. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 1. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - The Young Dreamer</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God's timing was perfect. Jacob was guided to the very field where Rachel was arriving with the shepherds and their flocks. Jacob wanted to marry Rachel, but Laban deceived him into marrying Leah, her older sister first. He had to serve Laban for another 7 years before marrying Rachel. He then had to serve 7 more years. Jacob had sown deceit and now he was reaping it! <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 1. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - At Haran.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review the story with summary questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of him? Were Jacob's actions towards Joseph wise? What did Joseph's dreams mean? 	<p>Use a map to help pupils visualise the journey Jacob made from Beersheba (on the West Bank) to Haran (on the Euphrates River) in today's Syria. You may wish to draw their attention to ongoing conflict today in the Middle East in places such as Syria, Jordan and Iraq, or the war between Russia and Ukraine. Make the point that the struggle for land, power, oil, valuable assets is as strong today as it was in Bible times.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Christians believe that God has a plan for everybody's life. It is through Bible reading and prayer that His plan is revealed. How should this affect a Christian's schedule? Why should Christians try to dispel jealousy from their lives? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Try to think of examples of good 'sowing' which Christians should strive to achieve. Why is it important for Christians to rely daily on the forgiveness of God? (1 John 1: 9)

Levels 3 & 4	B6 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – The life of Joseph Topic – The hated brother	B6 – LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Jacob and his family Topic – At Peniel
	<p>Bible Focus: Genesis 37: 12-36 Key Verse: Romans 6: 12</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians believe that sin can start in a small way and to stop it growing into something bigger, it's necessary to ask Jesus for forgiveness. 2. Christians believe that confessing their sin to God removes the feelings of guilt associated with it. 	<p>Bible Focus: Genesis 32: 1-32 Key Verse: Genesis 32: 11</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jacob prayed to God out of a desperate sense of need for divine protection. 2. Jacob's name meant "con man". God changes his name to Israel, meaning 'a prince of God' after Jacob realised his need to depend on God.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Revise the story of Joseph so far and remind the pupils of the tensions in Jacob's family and the reasons for them.</p> <p>In Genesis 27, Jacob tricked his father Isaac into blessing him ahead of Esau with a goat's skin. In this lesson, Jacob's sons deceive him with a goat's blood. It is reasonable to assume Jacob would have remembered this when his sons tricked him. The pain of deception is felt once again in Jacob's life!</p>	<p>Discuss any meetings pupils may have had with important people. Explain that in this Study we are thinking about meeting with God and the effect this had on Jacob. The man who wrestled with Jacob (verse 24) was the Lord himself. Read Hosea 12: 4. Also refer to where the Lord (i) appears to Moses out of the burning bush; (Exodus 3: 1-22) (ii) appears to Moses in the two incidents when the rod becomes a serpent, and his hand is covered in leprosy; (Exodus 4: 1-17) (iii) appears to Isaiah with a request and Isaiah's response; (Isaiah 6) (iv) appears to Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9: 1-19). Emphasise that all these people had important meetings with God and very memorable experiences as a result.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joseph's brothers hated him so much that they were prepared to throw him into a pit. 2. Joseph's brothers sell him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, (also called Midianites) who were on their way to Egypt. 3. Joseph's father, Jacob, is broken-hearted as his brothers tell him a lie. They show him the tunic that was dipped in a goat's blood and Jacob assumes his son is dead. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 2. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - The Hated Brother</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jacob was making his way back from Haran to Canaan. He was afraid of Esau as he had said he would kill him, twenty years earlier (Genesis 27: 41). 2. Jacob heard Esau was coming with 400 men so he divided his family into two companies so that if the first was destroyed, the second could escape. 3. Jacob sends three successive herds of animals, 580 in total, to make peace with Esau. 4. Jacob spends the night alone at Peniel (the face of God) – the greatest experience of his life. God puts the socket of his hip out of joint and changes his name from Jacob to Israel. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 2. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - At Peniel.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Make the point that God was in control in this story. The Ishmaelites, although they were unaware, were providing free transport for Joseph to Egypt to sell him to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officers. It was in Egypt that God was going to richly bless Joseph and he would become second in command of all Egypt. Look at Psalms 76: 10 and discuss its relevance to the story of Joseph.</p>	<p>Review this Study by asking questions which will help students fill in the answers to Study 2. Draw their attention to the meanings of the following: Mahanaim (verse 2) – two hosts or double camp. Jacob (verse 27) – supplanter or 'con man'. Israel (verse 28) – one who strives with God or a prince of God. Peniel (verse 30) – the face of God.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can feelings of jealousy or hatred impact others? 2. Discuss the relevance of the Key Verse Romans 6: 12 for today's society. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jacob was left alone with God (verse 24). Why should Christians value alone time with God? 2. The angel wrestled with Jacob and stripped him of his pride and hypocrisy. What can Christians learn from this? 3. After this experience with God, Jacob had his name changed. What changes should be evident in a Christian's life?

Levels 3 & 4	B6 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – The life of Joseph Topic – The faithful prisoner	B6 – LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Jacob and his family Topic – At Bethel
	<p>Bible Focus: Genesis 39: 1-6; 19-23 Key Verse: Genesis 39: 21</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Although Joseph was far away from home in Egypt, he remained faithful to God even in the most difficult of situations. 2. For Christians, it is clear that God had His eye on Joseph and had a great future in store for him (Romans 8: 28). 	<p>Bible Focus: Genesis 35: 1-15 Key Verse: Psalm 37: 7</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians believe that although they may wander away from God's path, He will never leave or forsake them. 2. Christians rely on God for help to deal with their past failures, and the difficulties and trials they may face in the future.
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Discuss the injustice people would feel if they were put behind bars when they are innocent. Explain that this is what happened to Joseph. Explain that in some countries today, believers are in prison. They are not in prison because of anything they have done wrong but because they are prepared to be faithful to God.</p>	<p>Introduce the Study by drawing attention to the fact that Christians rely on God's protection. Look at Psalm 91 and Romans 8 and discuss how these verses illustrate this protection. The following verses are also worth referring to by way of introduction and background: Psalm 91: 2, 15; and Romans 8: 31.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joseph was sold by the Ishmaelites as a slave to Potiphar, an official in Pharaoh's palace. 2. Potiphar's wife told lies about him. He was falsely accused and thrown into jail. 3. Joseph behaved so well in prison that the jailer put him in charge of the prison. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 3. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - The Faithful Prisoners.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God commands Jacob to fulfil the vow he made about thirty years earlier in Genesis 28: 20-22 and returns to Bethel. 2. Jacob orders his family to put away the foreign gods and clean their clothes. When they did so the 'terror of God fell upon the towns all around them' (35: 5). 3. He builds an altar at Bethel and worships God who protected him from Esau. 4. God meets with Jacob at Bethel again and renews the covenant he made with Abraham and Isaac. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 3. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - At Bethel.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review the lesson by asking pupils to explain how God turned Joseph's life around. Although his brothers intended evil against him, Joseph remains a trustworthy and responsible follower of God.</p>	<p>Rachel had named her child Ben-Oni which means 'son of my sorrow' but Jacob named him Benjamin, meaning 'son of my right hand'. For Christians, this study is a reflection of Jesus' death and resurrection, in that He would endure the sorrow of the cross and then be exalted to God's right hand in Heaven. Just as Bethel was a memorable experience for Jacob so the cross points Christians to Jesus' memorable experience.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In light of the story of Joseph, how should Christians respond when hard times and difficulties come their way? 2. Try to think of other people in the Bible who were imprisoned for their faith. 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians read the Bible and pray for God's daily guidance. 2. Discuss examples of 'Bethel' experiences today. 3. How does Hebrews 13: 5 comfort Christians today?

Levels 3 & 4	B6 – LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – The life of Joseph Topic – The new leader	B6 – LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Jacob and his family Topic – In Canaan
	<p>Bible Focus: Genesis 41: 14-49 Key Verse: Genesis 41: 32</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joseph gave God the credit for his ability to interpret the two dreams and because of this humility, God entrusted him with responsibility. 2. Joseph was faithful to God and He looked after him. 	<p>Bible Focus: Genesis 37: 1-36 Key Verses: Ephesians 4: 31-32</p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Favouritism can lead to jealousy which can then cause lots of other hurtful consequences. 2. Although his brothers had to live with their sin for many years, eventually Joseph reveals himself to them before his father's death and there is forgiveness and reconciliation (Genesis 50: 20).
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Recall the story so far and explain that God was working His purposes out in Joseph's life. Point out that because of Joseph's good testimony, (verse 39) he was promoted as second in command.</p> <p>In verse 42, the ring shows he has been taken from the position of a slave to the position of a king's son; given the clothes of fine linen instead of a torn robe; given a gold chain signifying his rise to authority; and he's given a chariot in verse 43 showing he is no longer a captive but enjoying liberty in Pharaoh's kingdom.</p> <p>He has moved from a place of humiliation in the pit, when he was 17 years old, to a place of exaltation, when he was 30 years old. He was a very young man in a very responsible job!</p>	<p>Introduce Jacob's family and their present situation. Set the background to this Study by referring to other Bible readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Psalm 56 – Discuss that for Christians, God is looking after them regardless of how the devil may be using others to attack. (ii) Matthew 5: 43-48; Ephesians 4: 22-32 – What sort of behaviour/attitude do these verses encourage amongst Christians?
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pharaoh has dreams and Joseph is brought from the prison to interpret them. 2. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's two dreams – seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. Pharaoh makes Joseph the second in command and Joseph administers the corn programme. 3. The abundance of corn was so great in the fruitful years that it was impossible to keep a record of it. When the seven years of famine came, there was extra corn available for the starving people of Egypt and further afield. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B - The new Leader.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joseph was given a coat, or tunic, of many colours by Jacob as a sign of his affection for him but this provoked more hatred from his brothers. 2. Joseph had dreams that indicated that his eleven brothers and Leah and Jacob (Rachel was dead) would all bow down to him in a future day. 3. Joseph's brothers were angry and planned to kill him but instead sold him to the Ishmaelites (Midianites). They didn't realise that they were carrying out God's plan for Joseph's future promotion. 4. His brothers cruelly returned Joseph's coat, dipped in blood to Jacob who assumed Joseph was dead and mourned for the son he loved so much. Jacob 'the deceiver' is now 'the deceived.' <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C - In Canaan.</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Ask pupils to imagine they are Joseph. Task: Write to your father Jacob and tell him about your new job! Describe how you have been treated in Pharaoh's kingdom.</p>	<p>Review this Study by asking questions that encourage pupils to reflect on the attitude 'do not return evil for evil'.</p>
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does this story encourage Christians facing difficulties? 2. What does this story show Christians about being faithful to God? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Question whether Ephesians 4: 32 is a guiding principle in life. 2. Discuss Matthew 5: 45 and what a Christian can learn from this verse.

Appendix B - Level 3 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
B1	Parables	Who is my neighbour?
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-064-good-samaritan/
		The rich farmer
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rich-fool/
		The sower
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/parable-sower-seed/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-049-parable-sower/
		Forgiving others
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/unforgiving-servant/
B2	Miracles	Water into wine
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/wedding-cana/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-016-wedding-cana/
		A boy healed
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-020-officials-son/
		Blind eyes opened
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-076-blind-beggar/
		Ten men with leprosy healed
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-072-ten-leprosy/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-ten-leprosy/

Appendix B - Level 3 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
B3	Bethany	Two sisters
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-mary-martha/
		Sorrow turned to joy!
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-070-lazarus-dies/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-071-lazarus-resurrection/
		Another visit
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-084-jesus-anointed/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/mary-anoints-jesus/
		On to Jerusalem
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-jerusalem/
B4	The Cross	Dying
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-093-mocking-jesus/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-096-jesus-crucifixion/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-098-jesus-dies/
		Rising
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-101-jesus-resurrection/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-102-appearance-mary/
		Leaving
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-104-appearance-thomas/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-107-jesus-ascension/
		Returning
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-ascension/

Appendix B - Level 3 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
B5	Early Christians	Prepared by God!
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-ascension/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/pentecost/
		Prepared to Die!
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/stephen-martyred/
		Prepared to Listen!
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/philip-ethiopian/
		Prepared to Go!
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/peter-cornelius/
B6	Joseph	The Young Dreamer
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joseph-dreams/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-joseph-dreams/
		The Hated Brother
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joseph-pit/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/joseph-slave/
		The Faithful Prisoner
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-joseph-prison/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joseph-prison/
		The New Leader
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joseph-pharaoh-dreams/

Appendix C - Level 4 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
B1	Parables	The two debtors
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-041-jesus-anointed/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-woman-anointing/
		Who is my neighbour?
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/parable-good-samaritan/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/good-samaritan/
		A foolish man
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-rich-fool/
		The great supper
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/great-feast/
B2	Miracles	Water into wine
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/wedding-cana/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-wedding/
		The boy healed
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-centurion/
		Blind Bartimaeus
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-blind-man/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-blindman-jericho/
		Ten men with leprosy
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-ten-leprosy/

Appendix C - Level 4 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
B3	Bethany	In the home
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-mary-martha/
		At the tomb
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-lazarus/
		At the table
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/jesus-anointed/
B4	The Cross	On the way to Jerusalem
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/triumphant-entry/
		His Death
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/jesus-crucified/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/jesus-dies/
		His Resurrection
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/jesus-alive/
		His Ascension
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-ascension/
		His Second Coming
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-ascension/

Appendix C - Level 4 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images
B5	Early Christians	Stephen
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/stephen-martyred/
		Philip
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/philip-simon/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/philip-ethiopian/
		Cornelius
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/peter-cornelius/
		Barnabas
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/peter-john-arrested/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/paul-conversion/
B6	Jacob & his family	At Haran
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jacob-wedding/
		At Peniel
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jacob-esau-reunited/
		At Bethel
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jacob-esau-reunited/
		In Canaan
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/josephs-dreams/
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/joseph-pit/

Guidance for Teachers Marking Lessons

Level 3 lessons

- The students cannot complete these lessons without referring to the Bible and may have to refer to one or more Bible Readings.
- Questions are in various forms including crosswords and word grids, missing words, etc.
- They have been particularly designed to be answered by the NIV, Good News, RSV New King James, Authorised Version and Common English Bible versions.
- Our aim is that all students, whatever Bible they possess, will be able to answer the questions.
- Twenty marks are allocated for each week with a maximum of 80 for the month when the lessons are completely correct.

Level 4 Studies

- These are a harder edition to Level 3 lessons.
- More complex questions and answers are required.
- Twenty marks per week and 80 for the month, when the lessons are completely correct and the questions have a full answer.

MARKING HINTS

The teachers are asked, first to:

- Check through each lesson and mark the answers correct or incorrect.
- Award the necessary points as instructed.
- Always mark in a contrasting colour, and TICK each correct answer.
- Put in the correct answer, where necessary and correct any spelling errors, though NO marks are deducted for these.
- Give fewer marks for partially correct answers.
- Add the total for the month and write this on the back page in the space provided.

It is necessary to be fairly generous and to do everything possible to encourage the students with their Bible Study. It is helpful, where possible each month for the teacher to write a word of encouragement to the student and there is a space provided on the lesson sheet for this to be done. Comments can be made about good colouring, neatness, marks attained, the student's understanding of the lesson, etc.

We try to keep comments as varied as possible. Questions, statements, observations, encouragements etc. can all be used to maintain variety. It requires thought, but it is important to keep the interest of the student alive. If the same statement or question is being repeated every month, it loses its impact.

LEVEL 3

General comments

"Great work! You obviously read the questions very carefully. I especially liked your answer to the last question which was very well worded."

"Thank you for all your hard work. It was great that you managed nearly all the answers. I have filled in the missing ones for you."

Spiritual comments

"Moses had some difficult times with the children of Israel, but God didn't leave him to sort out all the problems by himself."

"Joseph never forgot that his father had taught him to love God. He remembered this even when he was far away from home."

"Bartimaeus was determined to get to the Lord Jesus. He wasn't disappointed for he was now able to see and he now knew the Lord Jesus was someone really special."

LEVEL 4

General comments

"Another excellent set of lessons. You seem to have a good grasp of these Bible stories and I really hope you have enjoyed them. Thank you for taking the time to do the lessons carefully. It would be easy to rush through them, so I appreciate all your effort."

"A very good try. I think by your answers, you may not fully have understood the story. Perhaps you could try reading it through again."

Spiritual comments

"Parables are sometimes called earthly stories with heavenly, or deeper, meaning. Can you think what the deeper meaning is in the parable in study 3?"

"Stephen died a cruel death, and yet he was not afraid to die, for he knew that God was still in control, and he knew he would be with the Lord Jesus in Heaven."



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