Holiday Club 2014 …. iSpies

**Day 1 The Mission**

Key Passage: Matthew 2:1-12

Key teaching theme: God sent Jesus to communicate with people.

Key verse: Matthew 1:23 “… he will be called “Immanuel” which means “God with us”.”

Key word: Christmas

Workbook information:

At **CHRISTMAS** we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Jesus came for a purpose. God was sending His Son into the world so that we would see and hear God’s message to us. God’s message to us when Jesus was born is “I love you”. God created us and He wants us back. Jesus’ coming was the beginning of God’s salvation plan being put into action.

Jesus is King. The wise men brought gifts to Jesus because He is King.

The children can link the word “King” to make a word pattern across the crown.

The wise men followed the star until they came to Jesus and there they offered their gifts to Him. We can choose to follow Jesus and bring Him the greatest gift that He wants from us … our lives. The only way we can come back to God is by accepting Jesus as our Saviour, being forgiven for our sins and following Jesus and living our lives for Him. (TSP (teaspoon) prayer … Thank you, sorry, please).

Sin has ruined our relationship with God and our relationship with others (even our families). God sent Jesus to save us from the destruction of our sin.

Encourage the children as they draw their family that God loves everyone in their family too. This message isn’t just for kids, it’s for adults too.

**Pray with your group**

Group Activity:

On the laminated crowns, have the children write one word each from the key verse for the day, including the Bible reference, with a whiteboard marker. Then get the children to stand in the formation of a **Christmas** tree, reading left to right starting at the top in the right order so that the verse can be read by the leader. (They are allowed to stand on the seats for this. Have someone be the star at the top of the tree.) You may like your group to show their Christmas tree verse at closing time. ☺

**Day 2 Mission Invitation**

Key Passage: Matthew 9:1-13 / Luke 5:17-32

Key teaching theme: Jesus invites us into relationship with him, not because we are good but because he wants to make us good.

Key verse: Matthew 9:13 “… I didn’t come to invite good people to be my followers. I came to invite sinners.”

Key word: Forgiven

Workbook information:

In this lesson, we learn that sin is in all of us. None of us are good. Sin is bad because it breaks our relationship with God and it breaks our relationships with others, including our families.

When we are **FORGIVEN**, it means the sin that destroys our relationships is taken away and our relationships can be fixed up again. So … sin breaks and forgiveness fixes OR sin makes us sick (not being what we should be) and forgiveness heals, restoring us to what we should be.

Only Jesus can take away our sin, nothing else can and no one else can. Why? Jesus is God. Jesus showed by healing the paralysed man that He had authority to heal and to forgive sins because He is God, not just God’s Son.

There are benefits of having your sins forgiven. You can have eternal life. You can have Jesus as your Saviour. You can follow Jesus each day of your life. The benefits that come along with that are love, joy, peace, purpose etc. Discuss these with the children and even share your own experiences that help the children to understand the difference that Jesus makes to our lives.

What does it mean to follow Jesus? It means obeying what He says in the Bible. Loving God and loving other people. Help the children to understand what this means in real life by giving examples. Eg. Loving God means you will talk to Him (ie Prayer) and read the Bible. It means meeting with other people who love God too and helping others to know about Jesus. It means caring for people in practical ways.

**Pray with your group**

Group Activity: Have children do a skit displaying what **forgiveness** looks like. Eg. A wrong act is done, relationships are broken, sorry is said, forgiveness is given and relationship is restored. You may like to offer your group to do their skit during closing time.

**Day 3 Accepting the Mission**

Key Passage: Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

Key teaching theme: It matters how we respond to God’s message.

Key verse: Matthew 13:9 “… If you have ears, pay attention.”

Key words: Seeds and soil

Workbook information:

Jesus told a parable about **SEEDS AND SOIL** to help people understand that there are different responses to the message of God. The seed doesn’t change but the environment changes that the seed goes into. God’s word doesn’t change but people are different that hear God’s word. Help the children draw the seeds in the different environments described in the passage … the road, the rocky soil, the thorny soil and the good soil. Their drawings will help you know that they understand the differences.

Then explain the parable, reading the second group of verses. A phrase is in their workbooks briefly describing what each soil looks like in people’s lives. As they explain WHY they are like this type of soil, you will find out about how willing they are to receive God’s word this week at Holiday Club.

Ask children if they would like to change what type of soil they are. If any children do want to change, lead them through the TSP prayer (Thank you, Sorry, Please) helping them to understand that this is how we accept God’s forgiveness and live changed lives that are now lived for Jesus and sharing in His mission in this world.

**Pray with your group**

Group Activity:

Divide the group into two groups. Call one half “**Seeds**” and the other half “**Soil**”. Have the children say the verse for today (Mathew 13:9) in an echo style. Seeds go first saying one word and Soil goes second echoing the word that was just said. Say the reference as well.

Be ready to offer for your group to do this at closing time in front of everyone if the children are willing to do it.

**Day 4 Mission of Love**

Key Passage: Matthew 27:57-28:10

Key teaching theme: Jesus died for us. It was really for us so that we could love him back.

Key verse: John 3:16 “For God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.”

Key word: Resurrection

Workbook information:

Remind the children of the lesson on Day 1 explaining the reason that Jesus came … because sin had destroyed are relationship with God and with others. Jesus came because he loves us so much that he doesn’t want sin to keep us apart.

The tomb was guarded because the religious leaders thought Jesus was a liar and that his disciples would come and take the body to make his lies look true. If Jesus rose from the dead, (**RESURRECTION**), that would mean that He really is telling the truth and they need to believe in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God.

The drawing of the earthquake, the angel, the tomb and the guards as described in Matthew 28:1-4 helps the children to understand that this was not an ordinary event. It was very scary for those standing around and watching and God was doing a miracle that no one else could do.

Have all the children read with you the verses from Matthew 28:5-7. Share the Bible around so that the children can read together from a Bible. If there are not enough Bibles in your area, get more from Robyn. It would be good to bring our own Bible too, even though it is a different version.

Have each of the children tell you, one at a time, “Jesus loves me”. Pray that the children will remember that this is true this each day of their lives.

Make it personal by having the children respond to the question “Do you love me?” asked by Jesus. Why would they love Jesus? Maybe because it is just what they have been taught to do, maybe because they know Jesus is true and they want to love him back. Maybe they are not sure or have never thought about it before.

**Pray with your group**

Group Activity:

Have children all lay down in a line on their stomachs on the floor in your area. Call out the word “**resurrection**” one letter at a time. As you call out “R” the children respond saying “R” and raise their bodies a little bit up. As each letter is called, children keep taking one move more to end up in a standing position on the letter “N”. Demonstrate yourself so they get the idea. You can do it a couple of times if you have time.

**\*\*\* MAKE SURE YOU SPELL THE WORD “RESURRECTION” CORRECTLY !!!!**

Your group may be asked to come up the front at closing time to show everyone your resurrection movements.

**Day 5 The Spy’s Mission**

Key Passage: Matthew 6:24-33

Key teaching theme: Jesus wants us to live with him every day, trusting him to help us live for him.

Key verse: Matthew 6:33 “But more than anything else, put God’s work first and do what he wants. Then the other things will be yours as well.”

Key word: One Way

Workbook information:

We have so many choices to make in life. Sometimes it is overwhelming the amount of choices we have to make. There is one choice that we make that is really important, the most important choice. We decide whether we are going to follow Jesus. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the **ONE WAY** that we can get to God. There is no other way.

When we have to make a choice, what are some of the things we do to help us choose? We may toss a coin, choose a hand, ask someone else to make the choice for us.

Get the children to think through the things that are important to them. There may well be something that is not on the list of suggestions. Help them to be honest about the one thing that is most important to them. Help them to think through how it is obvious to others that this is most important to them. Eg. Sport, they will spend a lot of time at training and playing. They will think about what they eat, drink and do because they are careful to do what is helpful for them when playing the sport.

Children worry about some things, and some children aren’t worried at all. No matter what, get them to write a prayer telling God what is on their mind.

Go over the words of the song One Way, Jesus with the children. Ask them if they really mean the words that they sing. Is He the only One they could live for ????

**Pray with your group**

Group Activity:

Do an advertisement for Jesus being **ONE WAY**, the only way to live.

The jingle is “more than anything else, put Jesus first and do what He wants”.

Present this in a fun way. Eg. Dance moves, rap, actions, wave etc.