

# God is our Saviour

Easter

3 Weeks



## Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- that Jesus is king of all of earth and heaven
- that Jesus was punished for saying that he was a king, although he had never done anything wrong
- that all people do wrong things, sometimes big, sometimes small, and we are the ones who deserve the punishment, but Jesus took the punishment for us
- that Jesus came alive after three days and is still alive today, although we cannot see him any more

## Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Fiji and Pacific neighbours

## Link between “God is our Saviour” and classroom topics:

*John 3:16 For God loved the world so much that He sent his only son so that whoever believes in Him should not die but have everlasting life.*

God wants the people of every country in the whole world to come to know Him, so that they can live forever with Him in heaven. People of every nation can come to know the true God by asking Jesus to forgive their sins and then to follow Him. Some people have never heard about Jesus so those who know about Him must tell others.

## Values:

faith; respect for truth; cultural understanding; thankfulness

# God is our Saviour

## Week 1

### Easter 1: Jesus rides into Jerusalem

#### **Bible reference:**

Mark 11 Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey

#### **Introduction**

Today we will begin to learn about the most important event in history. That is, when Jesus died on the cross and came alive again. Christians celebrate this important event at Easter. In today's lesson we will hear how Jesus rode on a donkey into the city of Jerusalem on the week before He was going to die.

Who has seen a donkey? Why is it different from a horse?  
Where is the city of Jerusalem?

#### **Bible Lesson: Jesus rides into Jerusalem**

"I need a young donkey," said Jesus, "to help me do God's work.  
Jesus friends looked here. They looked there. But they did not see a donkey.  
"Where will we get a donkey?" they asked.  
Jesus told his friends where to get a donkey.  
He told them that a man would give them one.  
Jesus' friends went to the man.  
"May we use your donkey?" they asked.  
"Yes," said the man. "But this donkey has never been ridden before, so it will probably not like having anyone sit on it."

The disciples led the donkey to Jesus. Jesus put a coat on the donkey's back and got on the donkey. But the donkey did not buck or try to throw Jesus off. The donkey walked calmly along with Jesus on its back.

Jesus needed the donkey because God had told him that he must ride into the city of Jerusalem. God was going to show the people of Jerusalem that Jesus was a king... (not the kind of king who rules a country, but Jesus was a heavenly King.)

The people saw Jesus coming and ran out of their houses to see Jesus. Soon it was like a big parade. People threw down their cloaks on the road to make a path for the donkey to walk on. They also broke branches off the palm trees to make flags to wave. They waved their palm branches and called out, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

(Hosanna is like "Vinaka" and "Thank you" and "Praise God!")

There were some people who were not happy that Jesus was being treated like a king. They were not happy that Jesus was so famous. These were the leaders in the government. They were jealous of Jesus. "Why does the crowd like Jesus more than us?" they thought.

This was the beginning of troubled times for Jesus. Soon Jesus would die. But it would be alright because it was part of God's big plan from long ago.

### **Art/craft**

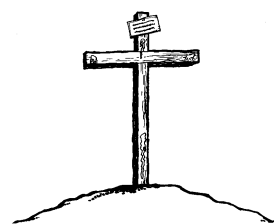
Make a collage showing the triumphal entry. Draw the road leading to Jerusalem. Glue colourful pieces of fabric along the road to represent coats, and pieces of fern to represent palm branches. The people can be made from pre-cut fabric shapes and spot stickers for the heads. Cut out the donkey from brown paper.



# God is our Saviour

## Week 2

### Easter 2: Jesus died for us



#### **Bible references**

Matthew 26 Supper with Jesus

Matthew 27 Jesus died on the cross

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: that someone would lay down his life for his friends.

#### **Bible Lesson: Jesus died on a cross**

Jesus knew that he was going to die. He wanted to have a special last meal together with his friends.

Jesus told his friends where to meet. They would eat at a house in Jerusalem. They prepared the meal.

Then Jesus said, "One of you is planning to do something bad to me," Jesus said. "Who is it?" asked John.

Jesus said, "It is the one I give this piece of bread to."

Jesus then gave a piece of bread to Judas.

Jesus said, "Go on and do what you are planning to do."

Judas got up and left. Only Judas and Jesus knew what Judas' bad idea was.

Jesus and his friends shared the meal together. First Jesus gave thanks for the food. Jesus said, "When I am gone you will do this again and again. You will think of the way I died for you."

Jesus friends ate the bread. But they were sad. They did not want Jesus to die. "Drink from this cup," Jesus said. "When I am gone you will do this again and again. Then you will think of the way I died for you."

Jesus friends drank from the cup.

Then Jesus said, "I will not be with you much longer. I have to leave. But do not worry. Do not be afraid. I will come back. You are my friends. Love each other as I love you."

Then Jesus took his friends to a garden where Jesus prayed.

And there Judas carried out his bad idea.

He led the soldiers to the garden and showed them where Jesus was. The soldiers gave Judas 30 silver coins for telling them where Jesus was.

The soldiers took Jesus to the leaders.

The leaders did not believe Jesus was God's Son.

"Nail that man to the cross," they said.

The men nailed Jesus to the cross.  
Then they watched him die.  
Jesus had not done anything wrong. He had never hurt these men.

Jesus talked to God. "Forgive these men," he said. "They do not know what they are doing."

When Jesus died on the cross, he showed how much he loved them. And he shows how much he loves you and me.

Jesus was the only person who never did anything wrong. He didn't deserve to be punished. But everyone else in the world has done at least one wrong thing. So really we are the ones that should be punished. But God sent Jesus to take the punishment for the things we have done wrong. We just have to ask Jesus for forgiveness and believe that he is the true God. When Jesus died, he showed how much he loves us.

### **Discussion**

Before Jesus died Jesus was talking to his disciples. This is what he said:  
"Greater love has no one than this: that someone would lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)  
Why did Jesus say this?

### **Activity**

On a large sheet of paper draw a large circle to represents the world.  
Ask each child to draw a person and cut it out. Children can stick their people inside the large circle. Write underneath or around the circle, "Jesus died for every person in the world."

# Week 3

## Easter 3: Jesus is alive

### **Bible references**

John 20, Luke 24

### **Bible Lesson 1: Jesus is alive again**

Mary was so sad. Some men had killed Jesus.

Now Mary came to the cave tomb to see the body of Jesus.

As she got close to the cave tomb she could see that the huge stone in front of the opening had been rolled away.

She met Peter and John who had also come to the tomb.

"Someone has taken him away," said Mary.

Mary began to cry. Then some angels talked to Mary.

"Why are you crying?" they asked.

"Someone has taken Jesus away," she said.

Then she turned around and saw a man standing there.

"Why are you crying?" he asked.

"Someone has taken away Jesus," she said.

"Mary!" said the man.

"Jesus!" said Mary.

Jesus was alive again! Mary was so happy.

"I cannot stay with you," Jesus said. "I must go back to my Father in heaven."

Now Mary really knew that Jesus was God's Son.

She ran to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive!

### **Bible Lesson 2: Jesus appears to his disciples**

On the evening of the first day of the week, the disciples were together. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the enemies of Jesus.

Suddenly Jesus came in and stood among them.

He said, "Peace be with you!"

Then he showed them the wounds in his hands where the nails had been, and his side where he had been cut with a sword.

The disciples were very happy when they saw Jesus.

Jesus asked them, "Do you have anything to eat?"

They gave him a piece of cooked fish. Jesus took it and ate it.

Over the next six weeks, Jesus appeared to his disciples several times. After this, God took him up to heaven. Jesus stood on the top of a hill with the disciples. Then a cloud came down and hid him from sight.

While Jesus was going up, the disciples kept looking at the sky. Suddenly two men dressed in white clothing stood beside him. They were angels.

They said, “Why are you standing there looking at the sky?” Jesus has gone to heaven. But he will come back in the same way you saw him go.”

So Jesus’ friends returned to Jerusalem. They knew that they had work to do for God. Jesus had told them to go into the whole world and let everyone know that Jesus is the Son of God.

### **Discussion**

After Jesus rose again, he had a new and different body that allowed him to pass through locked doors, and to appear or disappear whenever he chose to. The Bible tells us that one day we too shall have different bodies that will allow us to do things we cannot do at the moment.

Jesus showed the disciples his hands and his side, and he ate fish, to prove that he was really there with them and not a ghost!

Jesus will always have the wounds he received on the cross and when we see him we will be reminded of how much it cost the Son of God to take the punishment for all the wrong things we have done.

