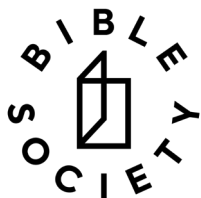




# Holiday Club Team Guide





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# Explore the Book – Introduction

## HIGH FIVE FEST HOLIDAY CLUB

This holiday club resource is designed to help children explore five stories of Jesus from our heritage Open the Book materials and *The Lion Storyteller Bible* in more depth.

When delivering Open the Book assemblies in schools, we let the stories speak for themselves to respect the setting we are in. However, when parents choose to bring their children to a church-based holiday club, we can go into the stories more deeply, answer children's questions and share our faith.

So, while this resource is based on Open the Book stories and shares them in a similar way to how we do in schools, it is different and, to set it apart from Open the Book, we're calling it **Explore the Book**. This will prevent any confusion for parents and schools between what we do in schools and what we do in a holiday club setting.

### Why High Five Fest?

A 'high five' is a form of greeting or celebration in which one person slaps the upraised palm of another person's hand with theirs. It's an informal gesture familiar to children. Each day of this holiday club, you'll present a different story of people meeting Jesus, hence the High Five Fest theme.

This holiday club material will help you build on the work of your Open the Book team(s) in schools, giving you the opportunity to *explore the book* in greater depth with children. Based on five Gospel accounts of different people meeting Jesus, the resource moves on to explore the impact this had on their lives.

Day 1: fishermen meeting Jesus and deciding to follow him (Calling the disciples)

Day 2: a blind man meeting Jesus and being healed (The man born blind)

Day 3: children meeting Jesus and learning they are important (Let the children come to me)

Day 4: a bully meeting Jesus and changing his ways (Zacchaeus)

Day 5: two friends meeting Jesus and understanding who he is (Road to Emmaus)

Each day, the story is presented from Open the Book materials, before going on to explore the story in more depth through games, crafts, songs, a memory verse, prayer and testimony. You can pick and mix activities, games and crafts, adapting them as appropriate for your setting. Whether you're running a small holiday club with just a few children, or a large holiday club with many children and different age group venues, this resource will work for you.



## Church, school, home

Research undertaken for the National Institute for Christian Education Research's Faith in the Nexus project shows that the greatest contributor to a child's faith flourishing is a joined-up church, school and home approach in sharing faith<sup>1</sup>. Open the Book connects church and school. Our hope is that Explore the Book can link home into the Open the Book experience, as parents bring children to this holiday club.

Linking what you do in your holiday club sessions with what the children do at home requires intentionality. Here are some suggestions:

- Could parents stay with their children for the presentation of the Open the Book story at the start of the session? Some holiday clubs have a gathering time at the beginning when everyone can sit together and watch the story before parents leave
- How could you 'send the story home'? You could provide conversation cards or a craft that is linked to the session
- You could have a closing event at the end of the week, such as a show or even a picnic with an ice cream van

We recommend a closing event be no longer than an hour, starting in the early evening to avoid children's bed times but enable family members to attend after work. You could decorate the venue with items used during the week. The children could sing songs they've learned, share the memory verse, or perform a warm-up dance they've enjoyed during the week. What about using puppets? You can split the children into age groups or keep them all together for the presentations depending on what works for you.

Start promoting and building excitement for the closing event on the first day. It's a great opportunity for the children to share what they've done and how much fun they've had. It might open families up to the possibility of exploring the book more as a family through church. Make sure you have information welcoming families to local churches ready to hand out at the end.

## Final thoughts:

- Remember to put a plan in place for your holiday club according to the safeguarding requirements of your church
- Think about publicity and how you can invite children and parents to the holiday club. The school may be willing to help with this by sending notices home or sharing information in their newsletter
- Just as they are for Open the Book, the four Ps are essential: pray, pause, plan and present. Everything you do is in his strength and he will guide your steps

Take a look at the following pages and begin to dream about what an Explore the Book holiday club might look like in your setting.

Let us know how it goes!

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<sup>1</sup> [Faith in the Nexus - Reports \(nicer.org.uk\)](https://nicer.org.uk)



# Daily outline – Programme activities

## OPENING TOGETHER SESSION

This is when parents/carers/adults are with the children before they are signed in to the holiday club. This may be at a central location in the church, school or town. Some holiday clubs do this session at the town bandstand or village green, while others use the church worship space. It can be anywhere that is large enough to accommodate everyone.

Why not come up with a fun name for this gathering such as: **The Bandstand, The Big Top, Centre Stage, Meet and Greet** or **Gathering at the Green?**

Set the joyful tone for your club each day and put the children at ease from the beginning. It's a time for fun and silliness: sing a few songs (pre-recorded or with a band), have a go at the memory verse, bring out the puppets, or play a game where the losing team gets wet, gunged, a custard pie in the face or covered in confetti (children love this)! Children in each age group can nominate one of their leaders to face the forfeit.

Most importantly, this part of the programme is when the Open the Book story is presented. Include the children, and maybe even a few parents, as volunteers in telling the story.

When the opening session is over (20-30 minutes) it's time to get the children into age groups. This might require moving to another place in the building or a different place in your town, depending on the size of your holiday club. Once children arrive at their age-group venue, adults sign their children in before leaving. Then you move into the 'explore the book' portion of your time together.

| EXPLORE THE BOOK<br>Programme activities (in age groups) | WHAT AND WHY?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Welcome and settling activity                            | Parents sign in their children.<br><br>Have an activity available at table groups until all arrive from the opening together time. This time builds your table group community. (See Pick and Mix)                                                          |
| Gathering time                                           | Bring all the children together from their table groups to set the stage for your time together. This is a place for everyone to do a warm-up song/dance (this can also be used at the closing event at the end of the week) and to learn the memory verse. |



| <b>EXPLORE THE BOOK</b><br>Programme activities (in age groups) | <b>WHAT AND WHY?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tell it again</b>                                            | This is an age-appropriate retelling of the story to reinforce it and help focus on it. The way you do this will depend on the age of the children in your group. (see Pick and Mix)                                                                                            |
| <b>Game</b>                                                     | Weather and location permitting, try to go outside and play a game or two. Make it fun, active and community building. (see Pick and Mix)                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Snack</b>                                                    | Don't forget the biscuits and drinks. Be aware of allergies and food intolerances. Having a fruit option as well, is always welcome. Deliver the snacks and drinks to the table groups.                                                                                         |
| <b>Gather again</b>                                             | Bring the whole group back together. Recap the story, have some fun (joke box, questions box, puppets). This helps the children transition into whole group listening for the testimony time.                                                                                   |
| <b>Testimony time</b>                                           | <p>Testimony simply means sharing about a time you sensed God at work in your life. Keep it short, simple, personal and from the heart. Practise telling your story beforehand.</p> <p>Note: children of all ages are usually highly engaged in listening to the testimony.</p> |
| <b>Prayer time</b>                                              | Move back into table groups for prayer time. Play some quiet music in the background to set the tone. Have some sort of hands-on element to the prayer to help children focus. (See Pick and Mix)                                                                               |
| <b>Craft</b>                                                    | Have a craft activity set up in advance with everything you need. Make sure it's age appropriate. The primary aim is to build relationships and memories with the children by chatting around the table. (See Pick and Mix)                                                     |
| <b>Home time</b>                                                | <p>Parents/carers sign out their children.</p> <p>Have pre-prepared conversation cards to give out to the adult carers to facilitate discussion with the child about their day at High Five Fest on the way home.</p>                                                           |



# Venue decoration ideas

Your holiday club venue may be in a church or village hall. It might be in a school space or a marquee on a lawn. Wherever it is, do your best to make it special. This is the place where you will explore the Bible stories with the children. Make your space a 'WOW' from the moment the children walk in the door.

Here are some ways you can do this:

- Painting signs and banners. You can begin to build excitement from outside the door, even outside the building
- Some sort of curtain, or screen the children have to pull back to enter the space. This can be made with string or beads or strips of paper. It could even be a tunnel of some kind (make sure you provide alternative entry option for adults 😊)
- Drape fabric to make a cosy or quiet corner in your space
- Use room dividers to designate table group spaces
- Use rugs or mats to delineate spaces for groups or activities
- Hang bunting and fairy lights to create a festival atmosphere for High Five Fest
- Make cardboard cutouts or posters
- Joke/questions box
- Puppet theatre
- Use string and clothes pegs to display jokes, artwork, drawings, etc.
- You have access to the digital image on the cover of this resource which you can use in your venue for name badges, posters, or any other ideas you have
- Think about what tech you will need: Speakers? Screen? Projector? Laptop?
- Set aside a corner of the room that is separate from all the other activities you do. Perhaps call it 'The Tent of Truth' as this is where you will gather to listen to the story again and the testimonies of team members. You can set up a large tent, or drape fabric over the space like an awning. There could be rugs on the floor and cushions. Make it special and cosy. With all the fun and games and make believe that you are doing, make sure the children know that what goes on in this space is real and truly happened

Spend some time as a team dreaming and imagining what can be done in your venue to make it special.



# Bible stories

## DAY BY DAY

| DAY 1                                   |                                                                           |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| STORY                                   | EXPLORE                                                                   | STORY EMPHASIS                                                                                    | DRILLING DOWN                                                                                                                                  | QUESTION IDEAS                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Some fishermen meet Jesus (Luke 5.1–11) | 'Jesus' Special Friends'<br><i>The Lion Storyteller Bible</i> , pp. 92–93 | Jesus chooses ordinary people to be his special friends.<br><br>Following Jesus is life-changing. | These fishermen were rugged and hardworking labourers. When they met Jesus, they left their fishing business behind and decided to follow him. | Are you a good friend?<br><br>Why do you think your friends like you?<br><br>How do you help them and what things do you like doing together?<br><br>Can you think of something extra you could do for your friend? |



| DAY 2                            |                                                                 |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| STORY                            | EXPLORE                                                         | STORY EMPHASIS                                                                                              | DRILLING DOWN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | QUESTION IDEAS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| A blind man meets Jesus (John 9) | 'I Can See!'<br><i>The Lion Storyteller Bible</i> , pp. 110–111 | Jesus heals a man born blind. The man didn't even know Jesus, but he was healed.<br><br>Jesus is God's son. | There are all sorts of things for which people need healing. Some are things you can't see. Sometimes a relationship between family or friends needs healing. We can't see anxiety or depression. Jesus can help heal these unseen hurts too. | What do we know about the man and what facts are missing about him in this passage?<br><br>Why do you think Jesus used mud?<br><br>How did different people respond to Jesus' actions?<br><br>How do you think you would respond if you saw something like this or read about it in a newspaper? |

| DAY 3                                                              |                                                                             |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| STORY                                                              | EXPLORE                                                                     | STORY EMPHASIS                                                | DRILLING DOWN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | QUESTION IDEAS                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Children meet Jesus (Matthew 19.1–5, Mark 10.13–16, Luke 18.15–17) | 'Jesus and the Children'<br><i>The Lion Storyteller Bible</i> , pp. 128–129 | Jesus cares about children and wants to be friends with them. | The disciples thought that Jesus was too busy and important to give time to the children. Jesus made it clear that he wanted to be friends with children and he also said everyone needed to become like children to be part of God's Kingdom. | What do you think Jesus meant when he said everyone needed to become like children to know him?<br><br>How are children different from adults?<br><br>What's the best thing about being a child? |



| DAY 4                                   |                                                                              |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| STORY                                   | EXPLORE                                                                      | STORY EMPHASIS                                                                              | DRILLING DOWN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | QUESTION IDEAS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Zacchaeus meets Jesus<br>(Luke 19.1–10) | ‘Jesus and the Taxman’<br><i>The Lion Storyteller Bible</i> ,<br>pp. 130–131 | Jesus shows us how to live. Jesus has time for us, no matter who we are or what we’ve done. | Zacchaeus had stolen, cheated and lied, and he was hated by everyone because of it. Today, we might say he was a bully. (The children will probably have lots of thoughts and possibly some experience of bullies and bullying.) Jesus made friends with the bully. This changed Zacchaeus’ life and it changed the way he behaved. | <p>What kinds of people might be ‘outcasts’ in our society?</p> <p>What does it mean for each of us that Jesus welcomes everyone no matter who they are or what they’ve done?</p> <p>How do you feel about Jesus becoming friends with Zacchaeus?</p> |



| DAY 5                                                  |                                                                               |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| STORY                                                  | EXPLORE                                                                       | STORY EMPHASIS                                                                                                                        | DRILLING DOWN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | QUESTION IDEAS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Two friends meet Jesus walking home<br>(Luke 24.13–35) | ‘On the Road to Emmaus’<br><i>The Lion Storyteller Bible</i> ,<br>pp. 142–143 | Jesus is alive now. He died for us because he loves us, but God raised him back to life and we can have new life by believing in him. | This is the day to talk about what Jesus did for us through his death and resurrection. We are told what happened from the point of view of the friends of Jesus who were walking on the Road to Emmaus. But then, Jesus gives them the full picture of who he is as they walk and talk along the way. | It was about seven miles from Emmaus to Jerusalem. How long would it take to walk that far? Can you think of any places that are seven miles away from where you live?<br><br>Jesus walks, talks and eats with the two people he meets on the road to Emmaus. Why do you think he chose to appear to them, instead of the rulers of the land? |



# Pick and mix

Use these pick and mix ideas as a springboard to customise your daily programme for the venue, group size and ages of your holiday club.

Go to our High Five Fest Pinterest board for more ideas and further details:

| ACTIVITY                               | WHO AND WHY?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | PICK AND MIX                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Welcome settling time at tables</b> | <p>Adults sign in their children for safeguarding.</p> <p>Have an activity at the table until all children arrive.</p> <p>This is a good time to build small-group relationships, e.g. choose a team name.</p> <p>Encourage children to write jokes or questions for the box which you'll read when the whole group gathers later.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Make name badges</li> <li>– Lego activity</li> <li>– Playdough activity</li> <li>– Cover table with wallpaper lining paper for each table to graffiti</li> <li>– Make bunting for your table</li> <li>– Draw self portrait in picture frame (premade-see Pinterest)</li> <li>– Pipe cleaner activity</li> <li>– Construction challenge (you could do one each day and present to the others), i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Spaghetti and blue tac or marshmallows</li> <li>– Lego bridge</li> <li>– Paper tower</li> <li>– Junk modelling</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Colouring sheets</li> <li>– Playmobil, small world toys</li> <li>– Table game, e.g. Jenga, Noughts and Crosses, Connect 4</li> <li>– Colouring and puzzle worksheets</li> </ul> |
| <b>Gather together</b>                 | <p>Bring all the children together from their table groups to set the stage for the day. Use a countdown or signal that tells them it's time to gather together.</p>                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Warm up dance/song</li> <li>– Memory verse John 10.10b (GNB) with actions and Makaton signs</li> <li>– Review of each day's OtB story (who, what, why, how?) picture</li> <li>– Song (animated songs on screen possibly)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |



| ACTIVITY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | WHO AND WHY? | PICK AND MIX                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Game</b></p> <p>Outside (weather/access permitting) game to run off steam, have fun and build community with team leaders and children.</p> <p>If you want to know how to play any of these games, or variations on them, Google the game.</p> <p><u>Pinterest</u>: more ideas on our High Five Fest Pinterest board</p>  |              | <p><u>Balloon games</u>: tummy race, over-under race, relay with passing the balloon and 'keepy-uppy', hit the balloon along with a rolled up newspaper/paper.</p> <p><u>Parachute games</u>: adult leads (e.g. 'After three: one, two, three!') Take the parachute up and down (hands move from low to stretch up high), swap places according to category (e.g. the girls, those wearing green, those with a younger sibling, etc.), small groups lie under the parachute for a turn to feel the movement and get the visual impact, roll a ball on the parachute and don't let it fall off. Search parachute games on your browser.</p> <p><u>Relay games</u>: water carry and fill, run, hop, partners together, dress up, etc.</p> <p><u>Hoops and ball pool ball games</u>: throw the balls up! Children have to collect a particular colour and put them in their hoop; hoop roll – whose hoop goes the furthest? Hula hooping, under and over, climb through.</p> <p><u>Runaround games</u>: 'It' or 'He' or 'Stuck in the mud', ribbons tucked in waist to pull out and collect, call out tags (e.g. numbers – children get into that number of children in a group). Indoor versions with music – statues or bumps (dance instead of run).</p> <p><u>Water games</u>: (bring change of clothes for sunny last day of club). Passing cups of water quickly, emptying bucket from one end to other, water fight (spray bottles not pistols), paddling pools, water painting (dilute paint in spray bottles and spray onto paper), objects in water trays, food colouring in water, add foam, foam sensory tray, ice cubes or bricks with objects frozen in them.</p> <p><u>Challenge games</u>: chew it up (Who can 'chew up' the strawberry lace fastest, using no hands?), melting After Eight chocolate, team tower build, circle of seats and swap about with categories.</p> |



| ACTIVITY                                   | WHO AND WHY?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | PICK AND MIX                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tell it again</b>                       | A retelling of the day's Bible story in an age-appropriate way.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Read it from <i>The Lion Storyteller Bible</i> or another children's Bible</li> <li>– Do the Open the Book assembly again with the children in your group. Let them take the lead</li> <li>– Story bag/box. Put things in the bag that feature in the story, e.g. fish, boat, tree, mud, etc. As you tell the story, pull out each item as you get to that part of the story.</li> <li>– Show a video of the story</li> <li>– Story boarding</li> </ul> |
| <b>Gather again</b>                        | <p>Come back together as a whole group.</p> <p>This is a place to have some fun.</p> <p>Questions can be about any of the leaders or about the stories.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Puppets (one of the puppets could be struggling with the same issues as the person in the story that day or the puppet could be a vehicle to review the story)</li> <li>– Joke box for the children</li> <li>– Question box</li> <li>– Memory verse (John 10.10b) again, perhaps by tables or choose a friend/s to help. Come up with actions for the memory verse or use Makaton signs.</li> <li>– Interview someone from the day's story</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Testimony time – one leader per day</b> | <p>Testimony simply means sharing about a time you saw God at work in your life. It could be something big, but it doesn't need to be. Most of us meet God in small and quiet ways which is just as powerful. This is a time for one leader per day to share with all the children about a time when they met Jesus. It might be about when they became a Christian, or it could be a time they needed God and he was there. We've seen that children are usually highly engaged in listening to the testimony in this part of the programme.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This can be based around a time you felt how the character(s) in the day's Bible story may have felt</li> <li>– This can be based on the emphasis for the day (see High Five Fest Daily Outline)</li> <li>– Keep it short, simple, personal and from the heart</li> <li>– Practise telling your story with someone before delivering it</li> </ul>                                                                                                      |



| ACTIVITY               | WHO AND WHY?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | PICK AND MIX                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Prayer activity</b> | Prayer is not something all children are familiar with or fluent in. Giving the children something they can touch or do in the prayer time can help them focus and engage in prayer.                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Go to our Pinterest page and you will find details on the following ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Lego prayers</li> <li>– Smartie prayers</li> <li>– Chat and catch prayers</li> <li>– Five finger prayers</li> <li>– Pasta prayers (Praise, Adoration, Sorry, Thanks, Ask)</li> <li>– Shaving cream prayers</li> <li>– Pavement chalk prayers ('sorry' prayers on Zacchaeus could be washed away to show forgiveness)</li> <li>– Prayer bucket with lolly sticks to write prayers on</li> <li>– Bubble prayers</li> <li>– Sticky note prayers</li> </ul>                                                   |
| <b>Craft</b>           | Craft is a medium to further relationship building. It's an opportunity to chat with the children, not an end in itself. If the craft looks great, helps them remember the story and encourages conversation about it when they get home, that is a bonus. However, our main aim is to build good memories in a safe, loving, Godly environment. |  <p>CD Fish-individual or large group fish sculpture</p> <p>Paper fish with 'Jesus loves me' and paper clip for 'fishing' with a magnet</p> <p>Paper people chain-children can write friends' names on them</p> <p>Edible krispie rice and cake roll trees</p> <p>Comic strip of the day's Bible story (templates on Pinterest)</p> <p>Calming glitter prayer jar-child shakes the jar as they pray for something-then spend quiet time with God while the jar contents settle.</p> <p>Make maps of Jerusalem to Emmaus and age it with tea.</p> |



| ACTIVITY                | WHO AND WHY?                                                                                                                           | PICK AND MIX                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Home time</b></p> | <p>Adults to sign out children.</p> <p>Give out conversation cards to adults to encourage exploring the book more on the way home.</p> | <p><u>Tips for questions</u></p> <p>Don't ask yes/no questions but rather open questions that inspire you to keep on talking about the subject.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– How do you think the children who got to be with Jesus felt? How would you have felt if you'd been there? Would you have any questions for him?</li> <li>– If you had been born blind, what do you think you would be most curious to see?</li> <li>– Why do you think Zacchaeus was so keen to see Jesus? Do you think he climbed the tree to hide or to see? Why?</li> </ul> <p>Have a question about the day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– What games did you play?</li> <li>– Can you do the memory verse all by yourself?</li> <li>– Who are you enjoying getting to know?</li> </ul> |



# Daily age-group

## PLANNING SHEET

*Use this sheet to help you plan and prepare for each day of High Five Fest. You might choose to do things in a different order, or with different elements and activities. Copy, paste and move things around on this sheet to serve your needs.*

Team:

Day:

Explore the Book story:

Memory verse:

Jesus said: **'I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness.'**  
(John 10.10, GNB)

| AGE-GROUP ACTIVITIES                         | CHOSEN ACTIVITIES | WHO IS DOING WHAT? | NOTES |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Welcome/Settling activity<br><br>Start time: |                   |                    |       |
| Gathering time<br><br>Start time:            |                   |                    |       |
| Game<br><br>Start time:                      |                   |                    |       |
| Tell it again<br><br>Start time:             |                   |                    |       |



| AGE-GROUP ACTIVITIES                                                                                                                                  | CHOSEN ACTIVITIES | WHO IS DOING WHAT? | NOTES |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Snack<br><br>Start time:                                                                                                                              |                   |                    |       |
| Gather again<br><br>Start time:                                                                                                                       |                   |                    |       |
| Testimony time<br>e.g. Where did you sense God at work in your life?<br><br>Start time:                                                               |                   |                    |       |
| Prayer time<br><br>Start time:                                                                                                                        |                   |                    |       |
| Craft<br><br>Start time:                                                                                                                              |                   |                    |       |
| Conversation starter cards to hand out at pick-up time. Or you could use a QR Code?<br><br>Parents sign out their child/children.<br><br>Finish time: |                   |                    |       |



# Opening together

## PLANNING SHEET

*Whatever you call this opening time with children and their adults together, here is a place to plan what you will do each day.*

| DAY:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | WHO? | WHAT? |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
| Songs:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |      |       |
| Explore the Book Story:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |      |       |
| <p>Memory Verse:</p> <p>As the children become comfortable with saying the verse, invite some to the front to help you lead this.</p> <p>Begin with</p> <p>'Jesus said...'</p> <p>I am come in order that you may have life – life in all its fullness. John 10.10b</p> <p><i>(Good News Bible)</i></p> <p>See Makaton signs for the memory verse on our website</p> <p><a href="http://www.openthebook.net">www.openthebook.net</a></p> |      |       |



| DAY:                      | WHO? | WHAT? |
|---------------------------|------|-------|
| Forfeit of the day:       |      |       |
| Tech needs and notes:     |      |       |
| Set – up needs and notes: |      |       |



# Storytelling handbook

## DAY 1: 'JESUS' SPECIAL FRIENDS'

In *The Lion Storyteller Bible*, p. 92 (based on Luke 5, Handbook 1)

Handbook amendments for a holiday club setting

### Introduction

*Storytellers give each other high fives as they move into their places to tell the story.*

Who here has Open the Book in their school? (*Comment on the hands up*)

This week, as we aren't in school, we're not just going to Open the Book, we're going to **Explore the Book**. At this week's holiday club, which is called High Five Fest, we'll explore the stories through fun games and activities, and by asking questions.

By the way, who knows what a 'high five' is? (*Take answers*)

Yes, it is a way to celebrate something or say 'hello' when you meet someone.

This week, we're going to be looking at five stories from the Bible where Jesus met different people. When these people met Jesus, things changed for them and they had reason to celebrate.

In our first story we are going to look at a group of fishermen who met Jesus. Let's Explore the Book and read 'Jesus' Special Friends'.

*Read 'Jesus' Special Friends' from The Lion Storyteller Bible (2008 expanded edition), p. 92*

### Conclusion

Peter was a good fisherman. He knew the fish weren't there until Jesus spoke. After fishing all night and catching nothing, Peter and his friends knew that what had happened was a miracle. They laid down their fishing nets, left their boats and decided to follow Jesus. And that changed their lives forever!

*Note: depending on the size and setting of your holiday club, this might not be the right place to do the quiet moment for reflection and closing prayer. That's OK, as you are about to go deeper into the story in age groups and there will be time for reflecting on the story in that space. Determine what is best for your holiday club.*



### **Quiet moment for reflection**

Although we cannot see Jesus today, Christians will tell you that they also follow Jesus and that following him changes their lives forever. Close your eyes and think about the miracle that Peter and the fishermen saw. Imagine how amazed they were at what Jesus had done.

*Count to ten slowly and silently, allowing time for reflection.*

### **Prayer introduction**

Now, I'm going to say a prayer and if you want to make it your prayer, say 'Amen' at the end after me.

### **Prayer:**

Dear God, thank you that Peter had friends to call on when he needed help with all those fish. Thank you, too, that Jesus needs friends like Peter to help him tell people all about you. Please help each of us to be a good friend. Amen.



## DIRECTION

### Storytellers need:

- **Essential:** Narrator, Jesus, Peter, fishermen
- **Additional:** Crowd

### Suggestions for presenting the story:

- As most of the story takes place in a boat, make sure you establish a boat big enough for the action to take place in.
- Fishermen could straddle gym benches with the blue gym mats all around.
- If you are using the hinged boat made previously, arrange it in a way that Peter kneeling before Jesus can be seen clearly.

### Suggestions for visual impact:

- The cut-out crowd can be used again for the start of the story.
- The boat can either be a cut-out, the hinged boat used previously or even gym benches.
- Blue gym mats or blue fabric to convey the sea.
- Netting for fishing nets (available from garden centres). If you put some filled nets on the floor before the story starts, then Peter can throw over an empty one but pull back the full ones!
- Fish cut out of shiny card or cellophane.
- The friends rowing can be a bit tricky because you can't really have multiple boats. Try miming rowing over and then getting into Peter's boat to pull the nets would convey the essence of the story (which is about Jesus, not about boats!).

### Extra resources: (downloadable from [www.openthebook.net](http://www.openthebook.net))

- Photographs from other teams of their boats
- Instructions for making a hinged boat front
- Templates for fish



# Storytelling handbook

## DAY 2: 'I CAN SEE!'

In *The Lion Storyteller Bible*, p. 110 (based on John 9, Handbook 2)

Handbook amendments for a holiday club setting

### Introduction

Who can remember the people Jesus met in yesterday's story? (*Peter and his friends, fishermen, etc.*)

And what happened when they met Jesus? (*They caught a lot of fish, they decided to follow Jesus, etc.*)

Today's story is about another person who meets Jesus. This person was blind. In fact, he had been blind since he was born. He had never seen anything in his entire life. But when this man met Jesus, something amazing happened.

Let's Explore the Book and the story called 'I Can See!'

*Read 'I Can See!' from The Lion Storyteller Bible (2008 expanded edition), p. 110*

### Conclusion

How amazing that a man born blind could now see! Meeting Jesus changed his life forever. But notice also, how quickly some people disbelieved and questioned what happened.

*Note: depending on the size and setting of your holiday club, this might not be the right place to do the quiet moment for reflection and closing prayer. That's OK, as you are about to go deeper into the story in age groups and there will be time for reflecting on the story in that space.*



### **Quiet moment for reflection**

Close your eyes for a moment. What can you picture even with your eyes closed? Picture a friend ... someone in your family ... an animal ... your home.

*Allow ten seconds of silence for reflection*

Now open your eyes. Look around you. Notice the light, the faces of people around you, the colours. Imagine what it must have been like for the man who had never seen anything before to wash the mud off his eyes and be able to see!

### **Prayer introduction**

Now I'm going to say a prayer and if you want to make it your prayer, say 'Amen' at the end after me.

### **Prayer**

Dear God, even if we can see, sometimes we are blind to the good things around us. Help us to open our eyes to really see the amazing world and people around us. Amen.



## DIRECTION

### Storytellers need:

- **Essential:** Narrator, Jesus, blind man
- **Additional:** (Up to) three crowd members

### Suggestions for presenting the story:

- This can be done in a very simple way with only three storytellers – the narrator reading all the crowd questions.
- Alternatively, team members can take on the roles of the religious leader and other crowd members asking questions.

### Suggestions for visual impact:

- Miming the mud will be sufficient – there's no need to actually put mud on the eyes. A bowl of water can be used if you prefer realism.
- The cut-out screen of a crowd from Year 1 can be used to enlarge your crowd.
- Use a metal beggar's bowl – the coins will clink nicely.

### Extra resources: (downloadable from [www.openthebook.net](http://www.openthebook.net))

- An additional script which tells this story in a different way is available on the website.
- Instructions for making the screen can be found in Story 19 'The Boy in the Temple' in Year 1.



# Storytelling handbook

## DAY 3: 'JESUS AND THE CHILDREN'

In *The Lion Storyteller Bible*, p.128 (based on Matthew 19, Mark 10, Luke 18, Handbook 1)

Handbook amendments for a holiday club setting

### Introduction

Who can remember the people Jesus met on our first day of holiday club? (*Peter and his friends, fishermen etc.*)

And who can remember the person Jesus met yesterday? (*A blind man*)

Well, today you'll never believe who meets Jesus! Take a moment and look at someone around you who isn't a grown-up. Guess what! In today's story Jesus meets children!

Let's Explore the Book and read the story, 'Jesus and the Children'.

*Read 'Jesus and the Children' from The Lion Storyteller Bible (2008 expanded edition), p. 128*

### Conclusion

Sometimes grown-ups can seem so busy! What sort of things do grown-ups do all day? (*Take ideas from the children: driving, talking, cooking, shopping, hoovering, reading, etc.*)

Well, I am so glad that someone in our story today wasn't too busy for the children. Jesus was a special friend to the children in the story, and he still is today. He's never too busy for children.

*Note: depending on the size and setting of your holiday club, this might not be the right place to do the quiet moment for reflection and closing prayer. That's OK, as you are about to go deeper into the story in age groups and there will be time for reflecting on the story in that space.*



### **Quiet moment for reflection**

Close your eyes for a moment and think about a time someone stopped what they were busy doing to be with you. How did that make you feel? Loved? Special? Important?

*Allow ten seconds of silence for reflection.*

### **Prayer introduction**

Now I'm going to say a prayer and if you want to make it your prayer, say 'Amen' at the end after me.

### **Prayer**

Dear God, thank you for this story where Jesus made time to meet the children. Children were important to Jesus then and they still are today. Amen.



## DIRECTION

### Storytellers need:

- **Essential:** Narrator, Jesus, mother and father, one disciple
- **Additional:** Crowd, two children, two further disciples

### Suggestions for presenting the story:

- At the start of the story, the person of Jesus must be hidden from view. Think of imaginative ways of doing this. Can you involve children – or the teachers? Or see the ideas below.
- There are 11 characters speaking in this story. Use willing staff and children to supplement your team. They can speak their lines (write them on cards) from around the hall or within the audience. Alternatively a single disciple can say all the lines if necessary.
- Although the story says the children sat on Jesus' knee, this would be totally inappropriate. Instead, amend this to say, "Jesus welcomed them warmly and blessed them".

### Suggestions for visual impact:

- This story works brilliantly with a 'crowd' of mop-head figures or a cut-out screen of the back view of a crowd (see below). Before the children arrive, assemble the figures so that their backs are to the children. Hide Jesus behind the figures.

### Extra resources: (downloadable from [www.openthebook.net](http://www.openthebook.net))

- Photographs and instructions for making the mop-head figures
- Instructions for a template of a cutout screen of the back view of a large crowd



# Storytelling handbook

## DAY 4: 'JESUS AND THE TAXMAN'

In *The Lion Storyteller Bible*, p. 130 (based on Luke 19, Handbook 1)

Handbook amendments for a holiday club setting

### Introduction

*Review the stories from the three previous days by asking 'Who met Jesus?' and 'What happened when they met Jesus?'*

Do you know what taxes are? (*wait for answers*)

Taxes are payments grown-ups have to give to the government to pay for things like roads, hospitals and schools. It was the same in the time of Jesus except that the people who collected the money – the tax collectors – always took a little bit of extra money for themselves.

Just imagine if you went to pay your taxes and the tax collector said, 'That's £2.50 for your taxes and then an extra £1 for me, to help pay for my big fancy new car.' You wouldn't like it one bit!

Today we have a story about a taxman who nobody liked – but he made a surprising choice which changed his life forever.

Let's Explore the book and read, 'Jesus and the Taxman'.

*Read 'Jesus and the Taxman' from The Lion Storyteller Bible (2008 expanded edition), p. 130*

### Conclusion

As soon as Zacchaeus realised that God loved him, even though he had done wrong things, he knew he had to change the way he lived and put things right with his neighbours. Meeting Jesus changed the way he lived his life.

*Note: depending on the size and setting of your holiday club, this might not be the right place to do the quiet moment for reflection and closing prayer. That's OK, as you are about to go deeper into the story in age groups and there will be time for reflecting on the story in that space.*



### **Quiet moment for reflection**

Close your eyes and think about whether there are things you do that hurt others. Maybe with your words? Your actions? If you met Jesus, I wonder if there would be anything you would want to change in your life?

*Count to ten slowly and silently to allow time for reflection.*

### **Prayer introduction**

Now I'm going to say a prayer and if you want to make it your prayer too, say 'Amen' at the end after me.

### **Prayer**

Dear God, if there is anything in our lives that needs to change, please help us so we:

Choose what is good,

Choose what is right,

Choose what is true.

Amen.



## DIRECTION

### Storytellers need:

- **Essential:** Narrator, Zacchaeus, Jesus.
- **Additional:** Two or more crowd members

### Suggestions for presenting the story:

- This story works well with an arm puppet for Zacchaeus. You can pin his words onto the back of the arm section for easy reading.
- Use a tree cutout (see below) or a sturdy chair or a ladder to climb up on. (Be safe!). Zacchaeus will need to look upwards to indicate the crowd, and then downwards once he is in the 'tree'.
- Rehearse the children to make the different crowd noises – cheering, shouting, moaning, gasping in shock and cheering at the end. Prepare cards with the appropriate sound written on "Cheer!", "Moan and Groan", to prompt them.

### Suggestions for visual impact:

- There are a number of ways to represent the tree:
- Stick paper leaves onto a chair.
- Decorate a green floral sun umbrella with 'foliage'. (Can be used in other stories.)
- Drape someone with green scarves or material to act the part.
- Use a step or a step ladder with green cloth draped over the front and a 'branch' (any handy foliage) clamped to the top step but take care when climbing that you don't break any school rules or give the children ideas!
- Use the cut-out Garden of Eden tree (minus the apple).

### Extra resources: (downloadable from [www.openthebook.net](http://www.openthebook.net))

- Details about purchasing or making puppets
- Instructions for making a large cut-out tree



# Storytelling handbook

## DAY 5: 'ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS'

In *The Lion Storyteller Bible*, p. 142 (based on Luke 24, Handbook 2)

Handbook amendments for a holiday club setting

### Introduction

*Review the stories from the four previous days by asking 'Who met Jesus?' and 'What happened when they met Jesus?'*

If you bumped into one of your friends at the shops or in the park, you'd recognise them, wouldn't you? If you went for a walk while you were away on holiday and saw a friend from home, you would still know it was them, wouldn't you?

Today's story is about two people who met up with one of their very best friends ... but they didn't recognise him! How very odd.

Let's Explore the Book and find out why in the story called 'On the Road to Emmaus'.

*Read 'On the Road to Emmaus' from The Lion Storyteller Bible (2008 expanded edition), p. 142*

### Conclusion

Well, that was quite an exciting meeting between those two friends and Jesus. Can you imagine how excited they must have been when they realised that they had been talking to Jesus – that the rumours were true! Jesus really was alive after all!

*Note: depending on the size and setting of your holiday club, this might not be the right place to do the quiet moment for reflection and closing prayer. That's OK, as you are about to go deeper into the story in age groups and there will be time for reflecting on the story and prayer in that space.*



### **Quiet moment for reflection**

Can you remember the last time you heard some really good news? Close your eyes and think about how excited you were. Did you want to rush off and tell all your friends?

*Allow time for reflection – slowly and silently count to ten.*

### **Prayer introduction**

Now, I'm going to say a prayer and if you want to make it your prayer, say 'Amen' at the end.

### **Prayer**

Dear God, thank you that the friends in our story today were able to see for themselves that Jesus is alive. Thank you that they shared this exciting news with their friends. Help us to share the good news that we hear today. Amen.



## DIRECTION

### Storytellers need:

- **Essential:** Narrator, Jesus, two friends
- **Additional:** Operator for light/fan

### Suggestions for presenting the story:

- This story can be acted out very simply. Use the space to convey a journey – perhaps start at the back of the hall for variety.
- Once Jesus meets the friends, allow plenty of time to walk slowly across the room and round again.
- Make sure the narrator stays to one side away from the action.
- Place a small table, plates, cups and a loaf of bread on one side ready for them to prepare the meal.
- Jesus ‘disappearing’ at the end is a challenge! If you locate the meal at a full-size table covered with a floor-length cloth, then Jesus can slip down behind the table and be hidden from sight. (Make sure he stays there for the rest of the assembly!) Or he can swiftly walk out of sight behind a screen.
- To signal something unusual is happening, shine a bright light or switch on an electric fan which disturbs the air. Continue the light or wind for a few seconds while the two friends register astonishment, look around the room, and look at the empty space where Jesus had been at the table.

### Suggestions for visual impact:

- Simple Bible costumes will evoke the scene. In particular, have head-covers for all three men so there is an obvious as well as a deeper reason why they do not recognise Jesus.
- Make sure the ‘taking and breaking’ of the bread is done with intent and in full view. Jesus would probably have held the bread up as he broke it.
- If using a loaf or roll, cut through the crust about one third of the way into the bread to make it easier to break/tear.

### Extra resources: (downloadable from [www.openthebook.net](http://www.openthebook.net))

- The screen can be devised using a puppet screen or the door posts from Year 2 Module 1, with a bar and curtain across.