

Week

4

# I have a story

A Lent course for the youth  
of the Diocese of Chichester



YEAR OF VOCATION  
2019

## Aim

This week we are looking how our life weaves a story and that story is written as we live it. Jesus accepts us no matter what our story has been or will be, the thing he wants most is to write it with us.

## Learning Outcome

- To know that you are forgiven and accepted
- To understand the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross and what it means to them personally
- That the past might shape where they are, but it is part of their story and nothing can exclude them from being part of the family we talked about last week.

## Materials Needed

- Bowls
- Baked Beans and Jelly Beans
- Cold Custard and White Mice
- Towels etc for cleanup after messy game
- Bucket of dirty stones
- Bowl of clean water
- A cross that young people could lay stones at the feet of
- Some low value coins 1p 2p
- Plain paper and pens
- Instructions on how to make a paper dove - <https://www.origamiway.com/easy-origami-bird.shtml>
- String and clothes pegs for hanging doves
- Small note pads/journal for each young person -

## Informal Start/Recap

Ask what people did with their knot from last week? Did any of them put it on a key ring? Do they have it with them today?

What else do they remember doing last week?  
Can anybody remember the bible passage from last week?

Romans 8:17 - Now if we are children of God, then we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, we share in his sufferings so that we may also share in his glory.

## Icebreaker

Messy game – We're going fishing! But no rods, no water and no fish. Instead we're fishing for jelly beans in baked beans, or white mice in cold custard with our mouths! (Some groups will love this, others not so much...If they really won't get their face in then let them use their hands)

Lay out several bowls filled with baked beans or cold custard. Hide a specific number of jelly beans (in baked beans) or white mice (in custard). Tell the young people how many items they're fishing for and set them going. First person to catch them all wins!

Perhaps keep some white mice of jelly beans back as a reward for joining in or for the winner.

## Video Clip and Bible Verse

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Testimony slot – do you have someone in your church or volunteer, who has a great testimony for your young people. You know them best and you know what their upbringings have been like – do you have someone who can relate their story of life with finding a faith and friendship with Jesus and how it has helped them. Alternatively there are lots of testimonies available online. These videos are well produced but are very American.

Ashley Gay – female and high school graduate who has struggled with anxiety - <http://northpoint.org/adults/baptism/videos/P12>

Justin Killeen – male in 20's talks about living in darkness and Jesus being the light <http://northpoint.org/adults/baptism/videos/P0>

## Discussion

What are you proud of in your life so far? What has been a real highlight of your life?

Do you have any really early memories? What is your happiest memory? What has been your most life changing moment and what happened?

It is often said that life is a journey but it can also be helpful to think of life as a story. A Story that you are writing and that God wants to be a part of.

What is the difference between a journey and a story?

Does a story have a destination like a journey does? Journey implies movement but sometimes in life we can feel like we're standing still, does that mean that we're not living or that God isn't with us?

What does it look like to have God as a part of your story? What does it mean to be a part of God's story?

How do we include God in our everyday lives? Do we pray, read our bibles? Do we try to be more like God? – We are included in God's story because we are all a part of His plan. When there was separation from God he sent Jesus to make a way for us to be with God again. – Before Jesus only one priest a year could enter the part of the temple where God dwelled – The Holy of Holies. To enter they would have to go through a lot of ritual and sacrifice to be pure enough to enter into the presence of a God where sin cannot exist. When Jesus died he took away all that sin so that we could be in God's presence freely and without fear. Relationship restored just as God intended.

Do you know Jesus? Do you know what he thinks of you? Have you asked him to forgive your past?

If Jesus could say one thing to you what would it be? – "I Love You". Jesus Loves you, there's nothing you can do to change that. He longs to be in relationship with you. What does it mean to know Jesus? It means knowing Him, talking to Him, spending time with Him.

## Response/Creative Prayer

**Respond** - To give the opportunity for those who haven't yet made a commitment to Jesus to make that choice.

**Reflect** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ea83YTijqOY> play and allow young people to sit and reflect on their own journey and life so far as well as beyond today.

**Forgiveness** – Have some dirty stones in a bucket next to a cross and a bucket of water. As they have thought of the things they have done that they want to ask forgiveness for they can take a stone and wash it in some water and then lay it at the foot of the cross.

**Say Sorry** – to think of people that they need to forgive or maybe someone who they need to say sorry to – make a paper dove and hang it up on a washing line with a peg – write the name on the inside of the dove.

**Choices to make and having God with us** – have a pile of low value coins – sometimes when people make a decision they toss a coin - get the youth to think about the choices they have made in the past and ask God to be with them in the future to make good choices. They can hold a coin and look at the heads and tails as they spend time thinking.

## Memory Verse

Read the bible passage out once in full. Then read it again but with a word missing. Young people need to guess which word is missing, a small prize each time they get it right. Read it through several times with different words missing. When you think they know it get them to recite it back to you

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

## Takeaway

Give each member of your group a small journal and encourage them to write down their thoughts and questions to God. To help them to communicate with God through writing or drawing. Spend some time talking about journaling and what it can be like. Give examples of writing prayers, thoughts, ideas, fears and dreams. There are no rules, they can doodle, create amazing works of art or they can just scribble. It is between them and God so they can make it as scruffy or neat as they want.

As an example this sort of thing would be ideal [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Silvine-Exercise-Margin-229x178mm-Purple/dp/B002QWDSH2/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1546527349&sr=1-5&keywords=exercise%2Bbooks&th=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Silvine-Exercise-Margin-229x178mm-Purple/dp/B002QWDSH2/ref=sr_1_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1546527349&sr=1-5&keywords=exercise%2Bbooks&th=1)

Alternatively any supermarket or craft supply will have cheap notebooks you could use.

## Final Game

Tonight we've been through a process to get clean and right with God. Maybe even asking God to be a part of our life story for the first time. This is a really exciting thing and is to be celebrated.

Put some music on, and have cake and fizzy drinks. If you'd like a game to play then try your group on Ninjas. Everybody stands around in a big circle. You all have two lives, represented by your arms. As you move around the circle each young person is allowed to make one swift movement like a ninja to try and touch somebody else's arm. If you think somebody is going for your arm then you're allowed to make one movement to remove that arm so they can't get it. If your arm gets touched you place it behind your back.

To start, everybody stands in a circle to attention, you decide who is going to start and when the leader shouts go everybody jumps in the air and lands in their best ninja pose.

When both of your arms have been touched then you're out. Move around the circle in turns.

One movement can be a whole body pose change. You don't have to use your turn to attack, you can use it to move close to an opponent or you can move away with a defensive move.

Whole body moves must be jumped.