

DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER

TO KNOW · LOVE · FOLLOW JESUS



YEAR OF THE BIBLE 2017

Hear the Word of the Lord

A Lent course for the Diocese of Chichester's
Year of the Bible

For youth

Introduction

These sessions have been written to work in parallel with the adult lent course - 'Hear the Word of the Lord' produced by the Diocese of Chichester. If your church is running the lent course for adults, then the content of this course for young people will match it. The difference is that each week you'll find a video, icebreaker game, discussion questions, creative prayer or worship idea and a practical takeaway all designed with young people in mind.

Each week will outline what materials you'll need to run the session and describe each activity, hopefully in enough detail for you to use it, or adapt it for your own setting. Whether you meet in an evening, during church on a Sunday or in a school during lunch break these activities should be easily adaptable. Each activity has a timing as a guide to help you to decide if you can use the whole session or if you'll need to pick and choose parts to suit your needs.

The prayer is that each activity reinforces the learning outcome of each session to help young people to engage with the topic. Ultimately by the end of the six weeks young people will have had the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the Bible, what's in it and why and how it applies to their lives today. We're praying that by getting to know the Bible better they'll come to know Jesus better in the process.

Who knows, if there are parents in your church doing the adult course and their children are doing the youth course, perhaps they'll even talk about it at home.

I do hope that this resource is helpful and that your time using them is blessed.

Dan



Week 1 - A Bible overview

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Week 1 - A Bible overview

○ Aim

To give an overview of what the Bible is, who wrote it and what it's made up of.

Understanding why Christians hold it in such high regard and how can we rely on something so highly debated.

○ Learning outcomes

- The books of the Bible - what they are and how their content differs.
- How did we get the Bible we have now?
- The Bible can change your life and the world.
- Through reading the word we encounter the word made flesh.

○ Materials Needed

Books of the Bible printout - book names cut up (laminated if you want to be fancy)

Book category titles printout - cut up (again, laminated if you're feeling fancy)

Paints, paintbrushes or compass point/metal object for engraving slate.

Stones or pebbles (either scavenged from near where you live or purchased from a garden centre) or slate for engraving

○ Video - 5 mins

Week 1 - Dan Jenkins.

This video can be found online at youth.chichester.anglican.org/lent/videos

It's up to you where in the session you use the video but either right at the start or after the icebreaker are both good places.

Start with prayer...

Week 1 - A Bible overview

○ Bible Passage - 5 mins

The Bible passage can be read aloud from the front by the session leader or by one of the young people. Alternatively you may want young people to read a verse each around a circle or do something completely different, that's fine.

It might be fun to start with a game of **Bible cowboy**. You will need every young person to have a physical Bible. Every young person stands up with a Bible balanced on their head and takes the cowboy duel stance. The Bible reference is read out or placed on a screen where everyone can see it. When the leader shouts DRAW it's a race to be the first person to find the passage and bring their Bible to the front to prove it.

It's also worth having a prize for the winner. So perhaps some mini chocolate bars are worth keeping on standby.



Luke 24: 27-32

○ Icebreaker - 15 mins

Sorting Books of the Bible into Old Testament and New Testament

Low Prep:

Print several copies of the books of the bible worksheet, cut out each book (you can even laminate them if you're feeling fancy). Keep them in sets so you don't end up with two Exodus for one group and none in another!

On the night

Get young people in pairs or groups. Give each group a set of the books of the Bible and get them to sort them into New Testament and Old Testament

Get them to use the headings and see if they can arrange the books of the bible by their category – Law, History, Prophecy, Other OT, Gospels, Letters, Apocalyptic

Week 1 - A Bible overview

If you have a more advanced group get them to try and put the books in order for bonus points.

If you have a large group it may be necessary to do multiple sets and split them into small groups or pairs.

○ Discussion - 15 mins

In black are questions to read out to start discussion, in red are some pointers for guiding your discussion.

How reliable do you think the Bible is?

Do you believe it's true? Is it the inspired word of God? Can we base our life on the Bible?

In the Bible reading from Luke Jesus reveals himself to the disciples in the scriptures. How can we understand the Bible like the disciples did that day?

We read the Bible to know God better. How can we read the Bible more effectively? Habbits for reading the Bible, notes, prayer, conversation with others and reading the Bible prayerfully

How has the Bible changed the World and how could it?

How many people have heard of Jesus? Think about laws that are based on the Bible. What would the world be like if everyone lived by the Bible?

If you had to explain the Bible to someone who has never heard of it, what would tell them?

Who wrote it? Why did they write it? Who are the main characters? Who was it written for? What does it teach us?

○ Creative Worship - 15 mins

Everyone gets a stone or a slate depending on which direction you've decided to go. Everyone decorates their stone with a bible passage of their choice or a prayer if they'd rather. Encourage them to think of or find a passage that speaks a blessing or an encouragement.

When everyone is done they may want to share what they have done and why...this can now lead into the takeaway.

○ Takeaway - 5 mins

Hide your stone or slate somewhere in your community. Get a picture of your stone hidden in your community.

Your stone will continue to be a secret blessing to the community long into the future.