

# Introduction



## Prepared reading for the teacher

You must be able to recite the names of all 27 books of the New Testament with the children! Download the “Read Scripture app” on your phone. During each lesson we will watch the video clip on the app that gives a summary of that particular Bible book.



## Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

A map of the New Testament world.  
Food for a Biblical meal for example flat bread, fish, fruit, nuts and grape juice.



## Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The “bold” sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's Odos book.

The following is the e-mail from the Odos-team:

**From:** The Odos-team  
**To:** Every young believer  
**CC:** Your parents and friends  
**Subject:** The New Testament. Because of Jesus every believer will be saved.

Dear friends

This e-mail comes straight from the heart of everyone on the Odos-team. Did you know that the Bible is the best-selling book in the world? So, every time you open your Bible, you should remember that you have a best-seller in your hand.

It will not help to only look up a couple of verses in the Bible every time you are in trouble. The Bible is one continuous story that tells from beginning to end the story of God's love and plan of salvation and must become part of your everyday life.

Even though many people wrote this book, there is actually only one author – God! And don't think to yourself, oh please, we live in different times nowadays.

During New Testament times Christians were oppressed, taxes were high, people were in rebellion and Christians were killed and humiliated everywhere. Sounds familiar?

Lucky for you, you don't have to read this book in Greek or Hebrew or Aramaic, so go right ahead and start to read the book that can change your life FOREVER.

Regards  
The Odos-team

Extra content to share with the group:

1. The Bible is made up of 66 different books that were written by different people.

Some of the people, like Paul, wrote more than one book of the Bible. These books form sort of a mini-series within the Bible. The books of the Old Testament were written before the birth of Jesus and the books of the New Testament after His death.

The Bible is the greatest theological and historical book ever written.

It is therefore no wonder that the Bible is the best-selling book in the world. It is not only one book, but many (66), written by about 40 people who wrote the books during a period of about 1500 years. The meaning of the word "bible" is book. The Bible was originally written in a different language than ours and was written within a different cultural context.

As a modern believer you should not try to use the Bible as a question-and-answer book that provides quick answers to your problems by giving you a well-chosen verse.

The Bible gives timeless principles and values that are still valid today, even though the Bible also contains customs that are particular to that time and culture. Just like a novel, you cannot read the Bible right and left. The books of the Bible were originally written without any divisions into chapters and verses. The authors intended the books to be read like a story as a whole. Only in the 13th century was the Bible divided into chapters and the division into verses appeared for the first time in 1551. The Holy Spirit inspired the authors of the Bible, but remember that human authors were involved. Even though what they wrote were inspired by the Holy Spirit, each of them wrote in their own style and the differences in their personalities can be seen in their writings. The golden thread running through the whole Bible is God's work of salvation through His people, Israel and eventually the work of redemption of Jesus, God's only Son on the cross of Golgotha. Any person who puts his/her faith in Jesus will be reconciled with God.

This does not detract from the Bible or the truth thereof. Ultimately there is only one author – God! The Lord used people in an amazing way to write down His Word, just as He uses people today to spread His Word. These Bible authors came from different backgrounds to write down the Word of God for posterity. Some of them were ordinary fishermen, others were tentmakers or carpenters – there was even a receiver of revenue! When you read the Bible carefully and closely and the Holy Spirit is present in your life, the Bible can be a wonderful source of wisdom, strength and truth, no matter who or what you are.

2. The Bible is divided in an Old Testament and a New Testament.

The 27 books of the New Testament were mostly written in Greek and were completed within 100 years of the birth of Jesus. In 393 AD and 397 AD two synods officially accepted the books of the New Testament as we know them today. The Roman Catholic Church also accepts a few other writings, the Apocryphal books. These books are not accepted into the Protestant Bible, because they were often written under false names and some contain teachings that are in conflict with the other acknowledged Bible books. The first translation of the Bible was done in 285 BC. The Old Testament was translated from Hebrew into Greek and is called the Septuagint. Seventy translators worked on the translation. It was done under order of the Egyptian king. He wanted translations of all the books of the most important religious points of view in his library in Alexandria. The first book that was printed (1450) was also the Bible and is called the Gutenberg Bible, named for the inventor of the printing press.

During the year we will get to know the 27 books/letters of the New Testament. It will almost feel as if you are writing a book report about each book. We will learn:

- Who is the author? (Who wrote the book?)
- Who was the audience? (Who was the book written for?)
- Purpose? (Why was the book written?)
- Setting? (Where did the events take place?)
- Bible verse
- Main characters

When you start to read the New Testament, you will notice that a lot of time has passed since the writing of the last chapter of Malachi (last book of the Old Testament) until the beginning of Matthew (the first book of the New Testament).

For almost 400 years there was no word from God! The world of the New Testament was a world filled with oppression and political power games. Judea was dominated by the Roman government, tax collectors plundered the economy and all moneys were sent to Rome for the expansion of the Roman Empire. And among ordinary people there were always rumours of a possible rebellion. The message that God will send a Messiah to save His people was almost a forgotten idea for 400 years, but now there was renewed hope.

And then Jesus was born!

The 27 books of the New Testament were written in Greek (during the first 100 years after the birth of Jesus) and can be divided into 4 parts:

1. The 4 gospels
2. Acts of the apostles
3. Several letters, written by Peter and Paul (amongst others) and
4. Revelation



## Bookcase in the Odos book

Look at the Odos bookcase in the children's book. Follow the books from Genesis to Revelation and discuss the different categories into which the books can be divided.

Look at the map of the New Testament in the Odos book. Can you find the Mediterranean Sea, Corinth, Galatia, Malta and maybe Jerusalem and Capernaum?



## Interesting facts about the Bible book (“Reminders” in the children's book)

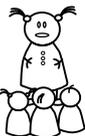
The Old Testament was written **before** the birth of Jesus and the New Testament after **His death**.

The meaning of the word “Bible” is **book**.

The golden thread running through the Bible: **God's plan of salvation through Israel and eventually Jesus' death and resurrection to reconcile believers to God.**

The 27 books of the New Testament were mostly written in **Greek**.

The first book to be printed was a Bible and is called the **Gutenberg Bible**.



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children's book)

In the Old Testament there is a gradual development of an awareness and growing expectation of a Messiah that will come. People were hoping that this person will also liberate the people politically. People spoke of their hope and expectations more and more. When will this great king come to save us?! We must always remember that the people of the New Testament grew up with the Old Testament as their only Bible, so there are many references to what were familiar to them. It is almost like reading the second book in a series. You need to know what happened in the first book to really understand the story. When we discuss the individual books of the New Testament, we will look at some of the references to and similarities with the Old Testament.



## **Our prayer for today** (“Chats” in the children's book)

Lord Jesus, even today we have many unrealistic expectations of You. Just as the Israelites expected a king and a political leader, we expect You to work like a magic wand in our lives. And then we get angry if something else happens. Help us to be humble and receptive to Your Holy Spirit and help us to see what You have already done for us.

Amen



## **Munchie fun**

Let's start the year with food from the Bible for everybody. Dates, raisins, flat bread, yoghurt, humus, grapes, pomegranates and grape juice are always lovely. During the meal, you can discuss the first lesson and what can be expected for the rest of the year. A communal meal features in many of Jesus' teachings and stories.



## **Bible verse for the week** (“You've got mail” in the children's book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Acts 1: 6 - 8

“Then they gathered around him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'”



## **My quiet time fun time** (“Attachment” in the children's book)

Find a copy of the “Jesus film”. There are many organisations, like Open Doors, that distribute this film free of charge. You can also download it from the internet. Organise a fun family evening and watch the film as a family. Afterwards discuss the impact Jesus had on your lives as well as the impact He had on the world.



## **Remind the children of their homework in their Odos book**

(#JesusandI in the children's book)

These are the verses in the Bible book that we want the children to use in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: Matthew 5: 44 - 45

Monday: Matthew 6: 19 - 21

Tuesday: Matthew 18: 19 - 20

Wednesday: Philippians 4: 4

Thursday: John 3: 16



## **Thought of the day** (“Jesus@audio” in the children's book)

Because of Jesus, everybody who believes in HIM, have the hope of eternal life with our loving Father.

# Lesson 1



## The Gospels



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the New Testament on the *Read Scripture app*, which gives you a good summary of the New Testament. Or watch the video clip of the New Testament on YouTube at the *Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

A packet of mixed dried fruit.



### Lesson content – Who and what?

Explain the Bible books to the group as if the authors wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book.

#### From: The four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

- Mark was the first to write his gospel and focused on Jesus as the Son of man.
- Luke was the second and focused on Jesus as the Saviour of the world.
- Matthew wrote from the viewpoint that Jesus is the King of the Jews and
- John focused on Jesus as the Son of God.

#### To: Everybody who wants to listen

All the gospel writers wrote with a specific audience in mind. Matthew and John wrote for new believers and Mark and Luke wrote for unbelievers.

#### CC: Jesus

The Gospels are biographies of the life of Jesus. Biographies usually focus on what a person *did*, what he *said* and what he was *like*, in other words his characteristics. We also find this in the gospels. Mark focuses on actions such as Jesus' miracles, His death and resurrection. Matthew and Luke focus on what Jesus said and John focuses on Who Jesus really was.

#### Subject: Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came to earth to save us.

Summary of the content of the Gospels.

#### Good day

**We wrote the 4 gospels of the New Testament and want to share the following with you:**

**God inspired the 4 of us to write a biography of the life of Jesus. We are different people who wrote about the same events, but each one of us had a specific focus and audience we wrote for and therefore the stories sometimes differ from each other.**

The gospels are the closest we get to a biography (true life story) about the life of Jesus. People were curious and wanted to hear stories from people who knew Jesus personally. Were you there? Did you see the miracle with your own eyes? Did it really happen this way? The four gospels often tell the same stories, some parts are even the same word for word.

Today when a well-known person dies, many books are written about that person's life almost immediately. Each book tells the same story, about the same person, but from a different point of view. This reminds us of other parts of the Bible that also tell the same stories from different perspectives, for example the stories about the kings and judges that are repeated in the books of Kings and Chronicles. Maybe God wanted us to understand the events surrounding His Son from every perspective and angle.

**The following information about Jesus is important to us:**

- **Jesus is the Son of God born of a virgin, Mary.**  
This birth even determined the calendar we use today, the year 2017 AD or 2018 AD or 2019 AD, whatever the case may be!
- **Jesus is the Messiah who died on a cross to pay for our sins.**  
Read Mark 15: 37 – 39.
- **Jesus rose from the grave after three days and conquered death once and for all!!!**  
Read Matthew 28: 5 – 7.
- **Jesus ascended to heaven where He now sits at the right hand of God, the Father.**  
Read Luke 24: 50 – 51.
- **Jesus will return to take us to Him.**  
Read Matthew 28:20.

**Remember the Gospels are the Good News! With the sharing of this news, the world would never be the same again.**

The word “gospel” in the context of the New Testament describes the announcement of important news by a messenger who travelled from town to town to spread the news. These messages were usually about a victory over an enemy or the death of a ruler.

**Enjoy our books.**

**Regards**

**Matthew, Mark, Luke and John**



### **Video clip (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)**

Show the video clip of the New Testament on the Read Scripture app or on YouTube at The Bible Project. This gives a summary of the New Testament using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Find the four gospels in the Odos bookcase. See who is first to find the four Gospels in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book (“Reminders” in the children’s book)**

The universal theme of the Old and New Testament is that of **salvation** and **forgiveness**.

A gospel was **good** news.

The Gospels tell the same story, but from a **different point of view**.

John focuses on Jesus as **the Son of God**.

Christ was born as a human being, and **yet He was God**.



### **Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?**

**(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)**

- We must always remember that the people of the New Testament grew up with the Old Testament as their only Bible, so there are many references to what were familiar to them.
- It is almost like reading the second book in a series. You have to know what happened in the first book to really understand the story.
- When we discuss the individual books, we will look at some of the references to and similarities with the Old Testament.



## **Our prayer for today** (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, the disciples saw You and lived with You and even they sometimes doubted if You are really the almighty God. Help us not to allow doubts to gain a foothold in our lives. Our life and death must be to Your glory.

Amen



## **Munchie fun**

Let’s take off our shoes. The girls must now swop their shoes with the boys. Walk in the class with your new shoes. We have a saying “to stand in someone else’s shoes”. It feels a bit uncomfortable, doesn’t it? This year we will try to walk in the shoes of the disciples and apostles of the New Testament on our Odos way. When people go on a hike, they eat food like nuts, dried fruit and other food that is quick and easy to prepare. Bring a packet of dried fruit to class and talk about what it feels like to walk in someone else’s shoes while you eat the dried fruit. Everything is dried fruit, but each one looks a bit different! In the same way each gospel tells the same story about Jesus, but from a different point of view.



## **Bible verse for the week** (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

### **Mark 1: 15**

“The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’”



## **My quiet time fun time**

(“Attachment” in the children’s book but can also be used as a group activity in class)

When news had to be announced in Biblical times, it was done by sending someone from town to town (with a gospel) to inform people. This news was then announced by shouting it out loud on the town square or any place where people were likely to hear it. I know it will be embarrassing to you to shout a chapter from one of the gospels out loud at school, but tonight in your room read the first chapter of the first gospel out loud to yourself or to your parents.

OR

Divide the class into groups of two and read John 3:16 out loud to each other. Discuss in the bigger group what it feels like to share the Good News with each other.



## **Remind the children of their homework in their Odos book**

### **#JesusandI**

These are the Bible verses from the Bible books that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: Matthew 2: 1 - 2

Monday: Mark 4: 39

Tuesday: Luke 5: 1 - 2

Wednesday: Luke 9: 13

Thursday: John 1: 1 - 2



## **Thought of the day** (Jesus@audio in the children’s book)

God wanted us to understand the story of His Son from every perspective and angle. That is why the Gospels are so important to us.

## lesson 2

# Matthew



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Chocolate coins



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The “**bold**” sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child’s *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Matthew:

**From: Matthew (aka Levi)**

Matthew: Is also called Levi.

- Meaning gift of God.
- Was a publican or tax collector. (The tax collectors were supposed to earn a fair commission for the collection of taxes, but usually exploited the people and were usually filthy rich. The Jews hated the tax collectors because everyone knew how dishonest they were. The Jews also did not want to give any of their money to the Romans, because they knew the Romans used it for the upkeep of their heathen temples.)
- He was unemployed from the moment he resigned as tax collector.
- Was one of the 12 disciples.
- He left EVERYTHING to follow Jesus.

**To: Mainly the Jews**

Matthew wrote mainly for the Jews, but also for all new believers.

**CC: Jesus, Mary, Mary Magdalene, Joseph, John the Baptist, the disciples, Caiaphas and Pilate**

Let’s have a look at the main characters in the book *Matthew*.

Mary Magdalene: A follower of Jesus.

Caiaphas: The high priest of the Jews at the time of Jesus’ crucifixion.

Pilate: The Roman governor who had to decide about Jesus’ guilt and if He deserved death or not.

**Subject: To prove that Jesus is the Messiah and the eternal King of the world.**

Hello!

I am Matthew and want to share the following with you:

When I decided to follow Jesus, He gave me a new life. It was wonderful not to be the hated tax collector anymore, but to be a part of a new group of people.

Read my book and use this summary to help you:

- **In the first part I tell the story of the birth of Jesus, then jump to His baptism by John the Baptist and then I focus on His teaching.**
- **In the second part I focus on the last six months of Jesus' life.**  
Matthew tells of the arrest of Jesus, the end of Judas, the events following immediately after the death of Jesus, the grave and the events after the resurrection.
- **I focus a lot on what Jesus said.**  
Many of Jesus' sermons are included in this gospel. Matthew was the third gospel to be written and describes Jesus as the King of the Jews.
- **I give guidelines to new believers about how they should live.**  
These new believers were mainly Jews who were converted. It is as if Matthew wants to say: Here is the Son of David and this is how we should live as His followers.
- **I feel strongly that Jesus should be seen as the King of the Jews, the One who would fulfil all the prophecies of the Old Testament prophets.**  
This is the reason why Matthew starts his gospel with the bloodline of Jesus. Jesus was a descendant of David, as was prophesied.
- **Remember you must believe first, BUT then your deeds must show it.**  
My gospel is sometimes called the handbook for disciples and is the most comprehensive and systematic account of the life of Jesus – remember, I used to be a book keeper!

Enjoy my book.

Regards  
Matthew



### **Video clip (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)**

Show the video clip of Matthew on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in Odos book**

Look at the Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Matthew? See who is first to find Matthew in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book (“Reminders” in the children’s book)**

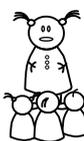
Matthew was a **tax collector**.

Matthew focuses a lot on what **Jesus said**.

The audience of the gospel of Matthew was **new believers**.

Matthew’s story jumps from the birth of Jesus **to His baptism**.

This gospel is often called the **Handbook for Disciples**.



### **Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?**

(“**Jesus@OT.com**” in the children’s book)

- **Matthew is the gospel with the most references to the Old Testament.**

Read Matthew 13:14 and Isaiah 6:9-10 with the children. Show them that these verses were quoted directly. There are 29 direct quotes from the Old Testament and 121 indirect references.

Matthew quotes among others from Micah, Hosea, Isaiah and Jeremiah.

- **Matthew provides a link between the Old and the New Testament.**

Matthew places a lot of emphases on the prophecies that were fulfilled and this may be the reason why it is the first Gospel in our Bible – it is the transition from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

- **The gospel of Matthew contains five sermons of Jesus. Matthew seems to suggest subtly that the first five books of the Old Testament are now replaced.**  
It is possible that Matthew wants to suggest subtly that the first five books, Genesis to Deuteronomy, are now replaced by five new laws – Jesus brought a new law. From now on it would no longer be the law of Moses, but the law of Jesus.



### **Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)**

Lord Jesus, the demands of everyday life have to be compared to the demands of Your kingdom. Forgiveness, peace and to value others above oneself are often difficult to do. We desire to live in Your kingdom. May our lives on earth reflect this desire.  
Amen



### **Munchie fun**

Matthew was a tax collector. Today we eat chocolate coins to remind us that God can call any person of any profession to follow Him.



### **Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)**

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Matthew 5: 17

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.”



### **My quiet time fun time**

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can also be used as a group activity in class)

Matthew is also described as the “handbook for disciples”. Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and make a list of the things Jesus expects His disciples to do.



### **Remind the children of their homework in the Odos book**

(#JesusandI in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Matthew that we want the children to read during their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: Matthew 3: 1

Monday: Matthew 3: 16

Tuesday: Matthew 5: 14 - 15

Wednesday: Matthew 6: 5 - 6

Thursday: Matthew 18: 21 - 22



### **Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)**

It was Matthew’s heart desire that all Jews would realise that Jesus is the Messiah. Matthew left EVERYTHING to follow Jesus. Would you have been able to do that? Do you think Jesus expects this of us?

## Lesson 3

# Mark



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

A basin filled with water to wash feet



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The “**bold**” sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child’s *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Mark:

**From: Mark**

Just as with the other gospels the author does not identify himself. He does not want to draw attention to himself, but only wants to write the story in the best way he can. The name of Mark tells us that the author was Jewish, but that there also was some kind of Roman influence. We know that his family was rich (he mentions servant girls) and that they owned a big house in Jerusalem. The name Mark is sometimes translated as John and in Hebrew it means “God shows grace.” Mark can also mean “short fingers” in Greek. It seems strange that the first gospel to be written was written by someone with such a name!

**To: Every non-believer**

Mark’s audience was unbelievers and he tries to convince them that Jesus is the Son of man (God).

**CC: Jesus, the twelve disciples, Pilate and the Jewish religious leaders**

Pilate: He was the Roman governor of the region of Judea. The Jewish leaders needed his permission to execute Jesus.

**Subject: Jesus is truly the Son of God.**

Good day

I am Mark and want to share the following with you:

In my book I focus a lot on what Jesus did. Jesus is truly the Son of God and I get very emotional when I try to convince people of this fact.

I was not one of the disciples, but I jumped the gun by writing the first gospel! Peter was one of my mentors and I received most of my information about Jesus from him in Rome.

I know the stories Jesus told are important, but I think no parable can compare with ACTION – miracles inspire me.

I focus on Jesus’ sermons in Galilee, where He was very popular, and then I focus on His sermons in southern Judea, where He was extremely unpopular.

I had to cut my gospel short and there was no time to tell of Jesus' appearance to His disciples after the resurrection. Please read about this in the other gospels!

Enjoy my news about Jesus!

## Mark

Extra content to share with the group:

Mark focuses a lot on Jesus' actions and what He did. Mark looks at His miracles, His death and His resurrection. His style of writing is dramatic and emotional. Mark was the first of the four gospels to be written. It is also the shortest of the four gospels and focuses on Jesus as the Son of man. Mark's audience was unbelievers. Through his stories he tries to grab people's interest and in this way he tries to convince them to believe in Jesus. The biggest part of Mark (almost 95%) are also discussed/ included in Matthew and Luke. Some Bible scholars believe that Matthew and Luke had access to the writings of Mark when they compiled their own gospels and that this is the reason for the many similarities.

Mark was not one of the disciples. He was a helper of three of the great Christian leaders of the first church. They were his cousin Barnabas, Paul (Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey) and also Peter. Bible scholars are of the opinion that Mark got most of his information for his gospel from Peter in Rome. He had to translate Peter's message into Latin so that the people of Rome could understand it. Peter was very impressed by the miracles of Jesus, he was a man of action, and in the gospel of Mark the focus is on action! 18 miracles are recounted, but only four parables are recorded. Because Peter had no personal knowledge of Jesus' birth, the stories surrounding the birth are not included in Mark – the gospel begins with the preaching of John the Baptist.

Mark divides his gospel into two parts:

The sermons of Jesus in the north of Galilee where He was very popular and the sermons of Jesus in southern Judea where He was extremely unpopular and faced many obstacles. It was also here in the southern part of the country that He was killed. Mark has the clearest explanation of all the gospels of why Jesus was found guilty. His pronouncements that He is God, was considered as blasphemy by the Jews. But His claim that He was the King of the Jews was considered to be treason – and treason was punishable by death.

Originally the gospel of Mark ended in a strange way. In the earliest documents it seems as if the writing ends in the middle of a sentence. Even today we are not certain why the gospel ends this way and other writers finished the sentence so that we can read it with understanding. It is also odd that Mark tells about the death of Jesus, but tells nothing of Jesus' appearance to His disciples after His resurrection.



### **Video clip (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)**

Show the video clip of Mark on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in Odos book**

Look at the Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Mark? See who is first to find Mark in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book ("Reminders" in the children's book)**

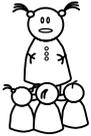
Mark was the **first** gospel to be written.

The meaning of the name Mark is: **Short fingers or God shows grace!**

The audience of Mark's gospel was **non-believers**.

Mark focuses on Jesus' **actions, deeds, and miracles**.

Mark was a **helper** of Paul, Barnabas and Peter.



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)

Almost at the very beginning of this gospel (Mark 1:2) the prophets Isaiah and Malachi are quoted. Isaiah is one of the most well-known prophets of the Old Testament. He tells of someone who will come to bring about God’s plan of salvation.

Because Mark’s audience was non-Jewish, he often refers to Jewish customs to explain the Jews’ attitude and behaviour towards Jesus. For example the Jews washed their hands and arms in a certain way before eating. Jesus told the Pharisees that they should not count on the fact that they are outwardly pure, because God sees what they look like on the inside.

Mark 12: 20 refers to the Old Testament custom that a widow should marry her husband’s brother. In Mark 13 Jesus Himself refers to and interprets pronouncements of the Old Testament (Daniel 9: 26 and Isaiah 13: 6 - 10).



## Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, Mark and Peter were men of action. To sit still was not part of their vocabulary. We want to be on the move for You and build Your kingdom. Give us the strength not to become tired of inspiring others to become more like You.

Amen



## Munchie fun

It is speculated that the Last Supper took place in Mark’s house. Let’s wash each other’s feet today, just like Jesus did at this event.



## Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Mark 10: 45

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



## My quiet time fun time

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can also be used as a group activity in class)

Mark focuses on Jesus’ actions and deeds. Are you involved in any outreach projects? Has your cell group or Sunday school class ever done something for other people? Have you been involved with a project where you had to bring clothes, money, blankets or a small gift to your school? How do you feel about projects like these? Do you think it is important for Christians to show their faith through their deeds? Think of something you can do for someone less fortunate than you. Ask your mom or teacher if they have any ideas. Write down a couple of your ideas that you would like to suggest of how you can help people.



## Remind the children of their homework in the Odos book

(#JesusandI in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Mark that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday:	Mark 1: 16 - 17
Monday:	Mark 4: 33 - 34
Tuesday:	Mark 9: 31
Wednesday:	Mark 11: 7 - 9
Thursday:	Mark 15: 25 - 26



## Thought of the day (Jesus@audio in the children’s book)

Mark wanted to grab people’s attention and tried to excite unbelievers about Jesus. Do you think it is necessary to be inquisitive about your faith? Mark focuses on deeds. Are good deeds important?

# lesson 4

## Luke



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Naan or unleavened bread



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The “**bold**” sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child’s *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Luke:

#### **From: Luke**

We know that the author was a learned man and there is speculation that he was a medical doctor. He was not Jewish. Luke came from Antioch, in Syria, and was well-read. We can see his medical background in his gospel, because he includes many “medical” details such as the birth of Jesus from Mary’s point of view and His circumcision. The miracles described by Luke are mostly medical miracles. The gospel of Luke is written in very good Greek from which we can infer that he was very learned. He had an extensive vocabulary and conducted a thorough investigation.

#### **To: Theophilus**

Luke addresses his gospel to Theophilus (the literal meaning of the name is Mr God loving). We are unsure whether this is a made-up name or if there really was a person with that name known to Luke. Some Bible scholars are of the opinion that Theophilus could even be the lawyer who had to defend Paul in Rome and that Luke wrote his gospel to provide the background information for the court case.

**CC: Every non-believer, Jesus, Elizabeth, Zechariah, John the Baptist, Mary, Mary Magdalene, the disciples, Herod and Pilate.**

**Subject: To show God’s plans, through Jesus, for His disciples.**

Hello everybody

Please excuse all the medical terms in my story about Jesus, but as you know, I am a medical doctor and I wanted Theophilus to have a clear understanding of what I wanted to say.

I regret it very much that I did not know Jesus personally when He was on earth! That’s the reason why I conducted interviews with as many people as possible to try and find out everything about Jesus. You will be glad to hear that I include a few unique stories in my gospel that you won’t find in any of the others. I want to bowl you over with the facts about Jesus, not with emotions.

What Jesus said, preached and taught are very important to me. Jesus is the Saviour of all the people on earth, whether they believe or not. He came to save even me, who is not Jewish! I am not much concerned with social status and often tell stories of the women, poor people, beggars and children in Jesus’ life. You may assume, because I am a doctor, that I only believe in scientific facts. But I can assure you that the Holy Spirit is not only a story! And I believe that a place called heaven actually exists.

**Don't forget to pray, I enjoy telling people how much Jesus Himself prayed. Enjoy my gospel and look out for all the unique stories I got from my interviews!**

**Regards**

**Luke**

Extra content to share with the class:

It was in Antioch that the first Christian (non-Jewish) church was planted. In Antioch the followers of Jesus were called "Christians" for the first time. Luke gives the approximate time of Jesus' birth (compare 1 Chronicles and the time Zechariah spoke to Elizabeth). The birth of Jesus would have taken place during the Feast of Tabernacles, in late September or early October. Even today the Jews believe that the Messiah will be born during this feast and are on the lookout for this event.

Luke never knew Jesus personally and had to rely on the stories told by people who knew Him. His gospel is therefore based on interviews and word-for-word accounts of eyewitnesses who knew Jesus. Luke is the only gospel that includes a story of Jesus in His youth. It is the story of when Jesus was "lost" and later found in the temple. Luke is the only gospel that relates that Jesus received the Holy Spirit at His baptism after He prayed. Only in Luke do we find the story of the good Samaritan, the lost son, the man who went to his friend's house at midnight, and the parable of Lazarus and the rich man. It is also important to note that Luke is the only gospel that gives a detailed account of the ascension.

Luke does not concern himself too much with conversion in his gospel, but more with providing an accurate account of what was said and done during Jesus' time on earth.

Luke also focuses (like Matthew) on what Jesus said, His preaching and teachings. Luke is the second gospel to be written and Jesus is seen as the Saviour of the world. Luke is the only one of the gospel writers who was not Jewish and his audience was also non-Jews. He wanted to tell people about Jesus and that He is the Saviour, not only of the Jews, but of the whole world. Even the genealogy of Jesus in Luke begins with Adam and not with David or any other Jew – the salvation through Jesus is for everybody.

Luke is the gospel that covers the most events and is quite different from the other gospels. He gives attention to women and children and other people who were regarded as unimportant in the ancient world. We think of Zacchaeus, the tax collector, the people on the road to Emmaus, the meal at the house of Martha and Mary, the women who were at the crucifixion and the woman who was subject to bleeding and was healed. Luke was interested in PEOPLE, especially people who were disregarded by others. Many of his stories focus on poor people.

Luke often talks about angels and the Holy Spirit. Even though he was a man of science, he was no stranger to the supernatural. He focuses on heaven and that any person can obtain eternal life, not only the Jews. Luke tells us much more about the prayer life of Jesus than the other gospels (9 times). It starts with Jesus' prayer at His baptism and ends with Jesus' prayer on the cross.

History books tell us that Luke died at the age of 84 in Greece. He never married.



### **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

Show the video clip of Luke on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in Odos book**

Look at the Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Luke? See who is first to find Luke in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book** ("Reminders" in the children's book)

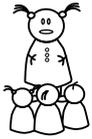
Luke was a **physician or doctor**.

Luke died at the age of 84 in **Greece**.

Luke addressed his gospel to Theophilus which literally means: **Mister God loving**.

Luke is the only gospel to include an event from Jesus' **childhood**.

Luke was the only gospel writer who was **non-Jewish**.



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)

Luke quotes, through John the Baptist, the words of Isaiah “all people will see God’s salvation.”

In the parable of Lazarus and the rich man in the realm of the dead, the rich man sees Abraham and Abraham tells him that his brothers should have listened to the law of Moses and the prophets.

Our verse for this lesson is a direct quote from Isaiah (Isaiah 61: 1-2). In Luke 4: 18 Jesus reads from the Scriptures in the synagogue: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”



## Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, we are not Jewish, and yet we know that You died for us on the cross and that we can inherit eternal life. Thank you that You reinforced this message once again through the gospel of Luke. Anybody who believes in You, is part of Your people.

Amen



## Munchie fun

Luke made it very clear that salvation was not only for the Jews. Today we eat a piece of Naan bread to remind us of the food the Jews eat during their Passover meal. Whether you are Jewish or not, whether you eat boer-biscuits (rusks) or pizza or rye bread or health bread or no bread, you can inherit eternal life if you believe in Jesus as your Saviour.



## Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Luke 4: 18-19

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”



## My quiet time fun time

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can also be used as a group activity in class)

In writing his gospel, Luke almost acted like a journalist, because he did not know Jesus personally. He conducted interviews with people who knew Jesus well. Imagine you are going to conduct an interview with one of Jesus’ disciples. What are the questions you would like to ask about Jesus? Think of 5 interesting questions. Any question is right!



## Remind children of their homework in the Odos book

(#JesusandI in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Luke that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday:	Luke 1: 35
Monday:	Luke 6: 22
Tuesday:	Luke 6: 29
Wednesday:	Luke 6: 43 - 44
Thursday:	Luke 22: 17 - 19



## Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)

Luke makes it clear that Jesus did not come only for the Jews, but for all people. Do you believe this? This gospel focuses on PEOPLE. Do you think every person is important to God?

# Lesson 5

## John



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Heart-shaped sweets



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The “**bold**” sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child’s *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from John:

#### **From: John, the son of Zebedee**

The John who wrote the gospel is not John the Baptist. The John of the gospel (son of Zebedee) was a fisherman before he followed Jesus. He caught fish, but also sold fish. He is sometimes called “the disciple whom Jesus loved”. He, together with Peter and James, formed the inner circle of Jesus’ disciples. John wrote his gospel when he was an old man (about 90 years after the birth of Jesus) and this may be the reason why there are so much insight and reflection in this gospel. He also wrote the three letters of John and Revelation.

#### **To: Every new believer**

The audience John had in mind was people who were believers for some time. He wrote for a Greek and a Hebrew audience. They are encouraged to remain faithful. John wanted to encourage them to follow Jesus with a new enthusiasm and excitement. In this gospel the Holy Spirit is emphasised.

#### **CC: Jesus, John the Baptist, the disciples, Mary, Martha, Nicodemus and Pilate**

John the Baptist: He proclaimed the coming of the Saviour, Jesus, and baptised Jesus. He was beheaded by Herodias.

Nicodemus: He was a member of the Jewish Council and had an appointment with Jesus in the middle of the night.

**Subject: I want to testify that Jesus is the Christ and that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.**

Hello everybody

I hope you enjoy my book, because I truly believe I was the apple of Jesus’ eye! It is not as important to me what Jesus has said or done, but **WHO He is, is the most important thing to me. When God created the earth, Jesus was there! It may seem strange, but Jesus was truly human and truly God – all in one.**

To me Jesus is the Son of God, the Lamb, the door, the shepherd... and many other names. Through the Holy Spirit I want to encourage you to remain faithful.

It saddens me to report that I sat next to Jesus at the last supper and could hear every word that was spoken, also the words of Judas, the one who betrayed Jesus!

I am already an old man, so maybe this is the last time you’ll hear from me!

Regards

John

Extra content to share with the group:

John does not focus that much on what Jesus has said and done, but on WHO He is. Jesus' identity as the Son of God was very important to John. John starts his gospel by showing that Jesus is God. Throughout his gospel, John also shows that Jesus (even though He is part of the Godhead) was fully human. John tells that Jesus was hungry, thirsty and tired. These are human characteristics. John wants to make sure that the reader knows that Jesus truly lived and died as a human being. He also gives a detailed account of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus truly died, but also truly rose again.

Mark begins his gospel with events at the time Jesus was 30 years old, Matthew begins his story with Jesus' genealogy, starting with Abraham, Luke begins his genealogy with Adam, but John goes back right to the creation of the earth! Jesus is God and was there right from the beginning.

John omits many of the stories we find in the other gospels, for example the birth and baptism of Jesus. Only seven miracles are discussed in John, but five of these are found ONLY in the gospel of John. It is amongst others the miracle of the water turned into wine, the man at the pool of Bethesda and the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

John mentions the following names of Jesus: the only Son, Lamb of God, the door, the good shepherd, Son of God, bread of life, light of the world, the way and the truth, life, the resurrection, the true vine and I Am. All these names show the identity of Jesus and how He portrayed Himself.

The Jews mentioned in the gospel of John is mainly the Jews who were hostile toward Jesus, the Jews living in the south, the Judeans. In the north, where Jesus grew up, Jesus had quite a following among the Jews.

Jesus' conversation during the last supper is only discussed in detail in the gospel of John. John sat next to Jesus and could therefore render a detailed account of events. John refers to himself as the "one whom Jesus loved."



### **Video clip (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)**

Show the video clip of John on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in Odos book**

Look at the Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find John? See who is first to find John in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book ("Reminders" in the children's book)**

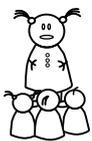
John was a **fisherman** before he followed Jesus.

John is sometimes called "**the one whom Jesus loved**".

The gospel of John focuses on **WHO** Jesus is.

John begins his gospel **right at the beginning, the creation of the world**.

John's audience was people who were **believers for quite some time**.



### **Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?**

("Jesus@OT.com" in the children's book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

= Compare John 1: 29 with Exodus 29: 38 - 42.

= Compare John 1: 29 with Isaiah 53: 7.

The words "Lamb of God" in John 1:29 refer to Exodus 29:38-42 where a lamb was sacrificed for the sins of the people. Isaiah 53:7 also mentions that the Messiah would be like a lamb led to the slaughter.

= Compare John 3: 14 with Numbers 21: 8 - 9.

John 3: 14 mentions the bronze snake Moses put on a pole in the desert (Numbers 21:8-9), in the same way the Son of man had to be lifted up.

= Compare John 4: 10 with Psalm 42: 2.

= Compare John 4: 10 with Isaiah 55: 1.

- = Compare John 4: 10 with Zechariah 13: 1.  
In John 4: 10 Jesus is called the living water. In the Old Testament our longing for God is often compared to a thirst for water.
- = Compare John 5: 27 with Daniel 7: 1 – 14.  
In John 5: 27 Jesus is called the Son of man who received all authority. We also find these words in Daniel 7: 1 – 14. Jesus will raise the dead.
- = Compare John 5: 21 with 1 Samuel 2: 6.
- = Compare John 5: 21 with 2 Kings 4: 32 – 36.  
John 8: 56 mentions that Abraham rejoiced at the thought of Jesus' coming.  
At the cross the soldiers cast lots for Jesus' undergarment. This fulfilled the prophecy of Psalm 22:19. Please look up this verse in **your Bible**.



### **Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)**

Lord Jesus, we want to have a personal relationship with You and with God. All the names You are called in the gospel of John, like living water, shepherd, light of the world and bread of life are still relevant to us today. We want to worship and glorify You with passion. Strengthen us in our desire, please!

Amen



### **Munchie fun**

John was the beloved disciple. Today we eat heart-shaped sweets to remind us of everyone we love, but the greatest love is the love of the Father for His children. You must love Jesus with your whole heart and with your whole mind and with all your strength. Who knows where we can find this verse in the Bible? Let's google it quickly!



### **Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)**

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

John 20: 30 - 31

“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”



### **My quiet time fun time**

**(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in class.)**

John truly loved Jesus and was one of Jesus' favourite disciples. Cut a heart out of white paper. Write your feelings about Jesus in the heart and put it in your Bible. You can read it at a time when you doubt your love for or faith in Jesus. Who is Jesus to you? Better than your best friend? A greater comfort than any psychologist? The only one you trust? The one you dream about every day? The one who rescues you from a bad situation? Whatever you write is fine, because that is how you feel about Jesus.



### **Remind children of their homework in the Odos book**

**(#JesusandI in the children’s book)**

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from John that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: John 1: 1 - 2  
 Monday: John 6: 19 - 20  
 Tuesday: John 8: 28  
 Wednesday: John 12: 3  
 Thursday: John 14: 16 - 7



### **Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)**

Jesus is the Christ, the Saviour and everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life. What will heaven be like one day?

# lesson 6



## Acts



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Cut a pizza into small pieces for everyone to have a bite.



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a person e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Luke:

**From: Luke (Yes, I also wrote the gospel of Luke. I am a medical doctor from Syria.)**

We know that the author was a learned man and there is speculation that he was a medical doctor. He was not Jewish. Luke came from Antioch, in Syria, and was well-read. Luke wrote in very good Greek from which we can infer that he was very learned. He had an extensive vocabulary and conducted a thorough investigation.

**To: Theophilus**

Luke addresses his book to Theophilus (the literal meaning of the name is Mr God loving). We are unsure whether this is a made-up name or if there really was a person with that name known to Luke. Some Bible scholars are of the opinion that Theophilus could even be the lawyer who had to defend Paul in Rome and that Luke wrote his gospel to provide the background information for the court case.

**CC: Peter, Paul and the Holy Spirit (If you can find His e-mail address!)**

Acts is actually the "Acts of the apostles", even though it mainly contains the story of the actions of two of these apostles, Peter and Paul.

**Subject: Salvation is not limited to the Jews. Jesus is the Saviour of the world.**

Hello everybody

Me again! I begin the book of Acts by telling how the Holy Spirit was poured out on the early church and how He enabled the church to spread the gospel from Nazareth to Rome, and in your time probably to many other places too. The name of my letter may just as well have been "The Acts of the Holy Spirit."

Paul and I enjoyed travelling together. It was a big help to him and the other sailors that I could doctor them every now and again. Paul was an inspiration to me. Who cannot be excited about the story of Paul's conversion?! The man who persecuted Christians, became a disciple of Jesus. He is an example of a persecuted person who was filled with joy.

I tell the story of Paul's three missionary journeys. You will not believe how far Paul travelled to bring the Gospel of Jesus to all people and how much he suffered for the Gospel in each and every city.

I don't think there is anybody who can still doubt that Jesus is the Saviour of all people and not only the Jews.

**Sorry, but I have to hurry, I hope I find some time later to tell you of Paul's death!**  
**(It seems as if Luke did not have time to write a good ending for his book!)**

**Regards**  
**Dr Luke**

Extra content to share with the group:

As is clear from our Bible verse for the week, the author shows in this book how the gospel spread from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria and then to Europe and eventually it reached the heart of the Roman Empire, Rome. The expansion of the gospel led to a change in the way of thinking of the Jewish Christians. Peter's dream of a sheet filled with strange animals, followed by the command to eat convinced Peter that Jesus did not come only to save the Jews, but that He was the Saviour of all people. In this respect the book Acts is almost like a bridge between the four gospels and the letters written to the different churches. We can now understand how it came about that there were so many Christians outside Judea and Samaria who were hungry for the message of Jesus.

Luke (the author of Acts) was a travel companion of Paul, especially on Paul's sea journeys. It was probably an advantage to have a doctor with you on these dangerous journeys. Paul was not one of the disciples, but most of the letters in the New Testament were written by him. Without the book of Acts it would have been difficult to understand many parts of the New Testament! Paul understood that to make a disciple is not a matter of one short conversation. He therefore often stayed for long periods of time in one place to teach the people and to ensure that they are grounded in their faith by the time he departed. The people who were converted were called "followers of the way". It is by persevering on the right road (or way) that you reach eternal life (Odos means "the way").

In the book of Acts Paul's testimony is repeated three times. The book of Acts can be seen as a declaration of faith and as such had a big influence on the spreading of the Christian faith to non-Jewish people. In Acts we have a look at the beginning and expansion of the Christian churches, the establishment of the church, the leaders, what they disagreed about, how they resolved their issues, and even today many churches use it as a guideline of how to be church.

In Acts we see what persecuted Christians' lives were like, how they were filled with joy and faith. The heroes and martyrs of the book Acts had powerful testimonies and performed many miracles. They were filled with hope and boldness and were not afraid to challenge the government of the day, even though it cost many of them their lives. To this day, many missionaries are encouraged by the book and by the conduct of the apostles. The word "apostle" means "sent one". And the apostles were convinced that God Himself sent them into the whole world to spread His message. These "sent ones" changed the history of the whole world through their message that Jesus is the true Saviour and that everyone who believes in Him will inherit eternal life.

The ending of the book Acts is sudden and blunt and the reader is not informed of what happened to Paul. Some experts are of the opinion that Paul was acquitted at his first trial in Rome, but was arrested again and beheaded later on. This, however, is speculation because these events are not described in Acts.



### **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

Show the video clip of Acts on the Read Scripture app or on YouTube at The Bible Project. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Acts? See who is first to find Acts in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book** ("Reminders" in the children's book)

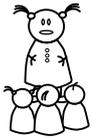
The book Acts tells the story of how the gospel spread from **Jerusalem to Rome**.

Peter had a dream of a sheet filled **with unclean animals**. A voice then commanded him to eat the **animals**.

The people who were converted were called "**followers of the way**".

Paul's **conversion and testimony** are repeated three times in Acts.

To this day many **missionaries** are encouraged by the book of Acts.



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

There is a long discourse about the circumcision in Acts 15. The law of Moses had 613 different instructions. In this chapter it was finally decided that Christians were not under the law of Moses. When Paul arrived in a new city, he first went to the Jewish synagogue. He would read from the Old Testament and show how these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus.

- = Compare Acts 3: 18 with Psalm 22.
- = Compare Acts 3: 18 with Isaiah 50.  
Acts 3:18 refers to the prophecies of the Old Testament foretelling that Jesus would suffer.
- = Compare Acts 3: 25 with Genesis 12: 3.  
Acts 3: 25 refers to the promise of Abraham.
- = Compare Acts 6: 6 with Numbers 27: 23.  
Acts 6: 6 mentions that the apostles laid hands on the believers. This is an old Jewish custom used to separate a person for an important task.  
Stephen’s whole sermon in Acts 7: 2 – 53 is based on the Old Testament. In his sermon he illustrates that God’s prophets and messengers have always been rejected by the Jews.



## Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, we want to share Your message of hope with the people around us. Help us to realise that it is not always necessary to go to the ends of the earth, but that we can start right where we are. We are Your representatives wherever we are! Amen



## Munchie fun

The apostles took their message from Jerusalem right to the heart of the Roman Empire, Rome. What food do we associate with Italy today? Definitely pizza and pasta. Each one eats a small piece of pizza to remind us of the dangerous journeys the “sent ones” undertook to share the message of Jesus.



## Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Acts 1: 8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



## My quiet time fun time

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

If you could choose any place other than your immediate environment to go to spread the word of God, where would you like to go? Why there? Visit the website of Open Doors and see which countries are the most dangerous for Christians to live in. Why is it dangerous there? What happens to Christians in these countries? Choose one of these countries and pray for the Christians there. Pray for their protection, for courage and perseverance in their faith.



## Remind children of their homework in the Odos book

(#JesusandI in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Acts that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

- Sunday: Acts 1: 10 - 11
- Monday: Acts 2: 2 - 4
- Tuesday: Acts 7: 6
- Wednesday: Acts 9: 3 - 4
- Thursday: Acts 17: 17



## Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)

We see in Acts what the lives of persecuted Christians were like. How their lives were filled with joy and hope. Does the Word of God have that effect on your life too?

# lesson 7



## Paul and his letters



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



The letters of Paul, organised according to the date they were written:

1 and 2 Thessalonians (50 AD), Galatians (50 – 55 AD), 1 and 2 Corinthians (50 – 57 AD), Romans (55 – 56 AD), Colossians (56 – 61 AD), Ephesians (56 – 62 AD), Philemon (56 – 62 AD), Philippians (60 – 61 AD), Titus (61 – 62 AD) and 1 and 2 Timothy (61 – 64 AD).



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Lollipops with something in the middle  
A4 paper  
Pencils



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Paul:

#### **From: Paul**

We know more about Paul than about almost any of the other disciples or apostles in the Bible. Almost a third of the New Testament is either written by him or is about him. Some of the Bible scholars describe Paul as short, bow-legged, bald and with a crooked nose. His eyebrows were thick and his hands rough. No wonder he never married!

Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved to Galilee sometime during Paul's childhood, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism.

On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

#### **To: The believers in Colosse**

Colosse was situated in the region we know as Turkey today. The city was situated on an important trade route and its inhabitants came from all over the world. Travellers from different parts of the world often stayed here. A cosmopolitan city implies people from different faiths: astrology (belief in the influence of celestial bodies), superstitions, Greek gods, Roman gods, Jews and Christians (to name a few) were present in Colosse. Find Colosse on the map in the *Odos* book.

#### **CC: Epaphras**

Epaphras: He was converted through Paul's preaching and took the Christian faith to his hometown Colosse.

**Subject: To fight against existing or future deceptions and faults in the church. To remind believers that in Christ they have everything they need.**

**Dear friends**

**I wish I could have left everything and gone to visit this church, but it was impossible... I was chained to a soldier in Rome when I wrote this letter! I have never met anyone from this church personally.**

**I heard that some of the church members mixed their Christian faith with all kinds of other philosophies and strange customs. Why? Christ is sufficient! Because they lived among people with different customs, they did not see this as a problem. They did not think it strange to bow down before images and worship them! Can you believe it!!**

**They did not understand that Jesus is the only way to God. Some believed that angels would help them to have a relationship with God or that they would be acceptable to God by eating certain foods. It is Jesus in us, the only hope of glory, or to put it another way the only one through whom we can have a relationship with God.**

**Trust ONLY in Christ, not on any other thing and you will inherit eternal life!**

**Regards  
Paul**

Extra content to share with the group:

During his ministry, Paul often heard of problems in churches. However, it was not always possible for him to leave everything and visit the churches immediately. So he often relied on letter-writing to address these problems. Remember, he was often in prison! Paul was under house arrest, chained to a Roman soldier, when he wrote the letter to the Colossians. Epaphras visited Paul and this is how it came about that the letter was written and delivered by the “postman” Tychicus. The letters to Philemon (individual) and Ephesus (general) were sent at the same time.

Paul wrote 3 types of letters:

- to address a specific issue or problem
- general letters circulated among the churches and
- individual letters addressed to people he knew.

The letter to Colosse was a letter to address a specific issue that troubled Paul.

Paul's letters usually started with his name, then followed the address of the receiver, greetings, a compliment, then you find the most important part/heart of the letter, a summary, final greetings and then his signature. The heart of the letter is not always clear from the start. Remember, we often read Paul's answer to a problem or question without hearing the question or the other side.

At this time Paul has never visited the church in Colosse, but Epaphras brought him all the news. This church was threatened by false teachings that mixed the Christian faith with all kinds of non-Christian philosophies and customs. They did not deny Christ as such, but wanted to add other ideas. Paul wanted to stress in his letter that Christ is sufficient.

Colosse was situated in the region that we know as Turkey today. The city was situated on a major trade route and its inhabitants came from all over the world. Travellers from different parts of the world stayed in Colosse. . A cosmopolitan city implies people from different faiths: astrology (belief in the influence of celestial bodies), superstitions, Greek gods, Roman gods, Jews and Christians (to name a few) were present in Colosse. Epaphras, who was converted through Paul's preaching, took the Christian faith to his hometown, Colosse. Epaphras came to visit Paul in Rome and probably helped him (physically) to write the letter with Paul's advice about the problems in the Colossian church. Paul had to be very diplomatic in the letter, because he did not know the people personally.

It was important to Paul that Christians must endeavour to live like Christ, with humility, sympathy, forgiveness and love.



## **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

Show the video clip of Colossians on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



## **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Colossians? See who is first to find Colossians in their Bible.

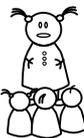


## **Interesting facts about the Bible book** (“Reminders” in the children’s book)

Paul was **under house arrest in Rome (in prison)** when he wrote the letter to the Colossians. This letter was written to address a **specific issue or problem** in the church.

**Epaphras** came to visit Paul and probably helped him (physically) to write the letter which was then delivered by **Tychicus**.

Some of the faiths present in Colosse were: **astrology, Greek and Roman gods, Jews and Christians**. Paul emphasised in this letter that **Christ is sufficient**. (It is not necessary to add anything to the Christian faith.)



## **Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?**

(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

- = Compare Colossians 1: 16 with Proverbs 8: 22.
- = Compare Colossians 2: 11 – 12 with Genesis 17: 9 – 14.
- = Compare Colossians 2: 18 with Exodus 20: 3 – 4.



## **Our prayer for today** (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, today we want to pray for other Christians. Thank you that You draw people to Yourself so that their deeds can tell of their love for You. Help Christians to grow spiritually. Help them to know You more and fill them with joy, strength and thankfulness.

Amen



## **Munchie fun**

Today we all get a lollipop with something in the middle. Christ must be the centre of your life, not any superstition.



## **Bible verse for the week** (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Colossians 2: 9 - 10

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.”



## **My quiet time fun time**

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in the class)

People believe in many superstitions (just like the people in Colosse). Some believe it is bad luck to see a black cat. Or that you will be unhappy for a long time if you break a mirror. Some sport stars have lucky underpants or perform some sort of ritual before going on the field. Today I want you to draw a ladder. Some people believe that you can’t pass underneath a ladder. Crazy! On each rung of the ladder write something that will help you grow closer to Christ. I’m thinking of things like faith, hope, love... add some of your own. We put our trust in Christ, not in any superstitions.



## **Remind children of homework in their Odos book**

**(#JesusandI in the children's book)**

Explain to the group that they must first download the QR Scanner app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Colossians that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: Colossians 1: 11

Monday: Colossians 2: 6 - 7

Tuesday: Colossians 2: 20

Wednesday: Colossians 3: 5

Thursday: Colossians 3: 12 - 13



## **Thought of the day** (“Jesus@audio” in the children's book)

Christ is Lord and the centre of our being. We don't have to fear anything on earth. What frightens you? Know that you can triumph over any fear in Jesus' name.

# Lesson 8

## Romans



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

A pizza or focaccia to share



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses. The following is the e-mail from Paul:

**From: Paul**

We know more about Paul than about almost any of the other disciples or apostles in the Bible. Almost a third of the New Testament is either written by him or is about him. Some of the Bible scholars describe Paul as short, bow-legged, bald and with a crooked nose. His eyebrows were thick and his hands rough. No wonder he never married!

Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved sometime during Paul's childhood to Galilee, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism. On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

**To: The Christians in Rome**

Most of the Christians in Rome were converts from the heathen nations and not Jewish. Find Rome on the map in the *Odos* book.

**CC: Phoebe**

Read about her in Romans 16:1-2.

**Subject: News about my journey between Rome and Spain.**

Hello everybody

**I did not know the Christians of the church in Rome and have never visited them before. I heard about the discord between the Jewish Christians and the Christians who came from the heathen nations. It saddened me to hear that Christians were fighting about things such as food and which days should be celebrated.**

**I then decided to explain the Gospel to them once again. This turned into one of the longest letters I have ever written to a church. I wanted them to understand that everyone, Jew and non-Jew, falls short in their obedience to God. None of us can boast that we are right with God. It is only by grace through the work of Jesus on the cross that we are able to stand before God.**

You will see that I declare in Romans 8 that nothing can save us from our life of sin and death except Christ and because of this nothing can separate us from His love.

In the end I wanted them to forget about other people's sin and not to focus on their petty transgressions, but rather to concentrate on what is truly important, their faith in Jesus. I hope that you will come to understand through this letter how wonderful it is to be saved only by what Jesus has done and not by keeping all sorts of rules and regulations.

## Love in Jesus Paul

Extra content to share with the group:

This is the longest letter of Paul. It is also the longest letter of any author, according to some Bible scholars, that was preserved from ancient times. In Romans there is a long list of everybody who has to be greeted and also many people who are greeted at the end of the letter. The letter is also unique in the fact that Paul is writing to a church with whom he had little contact. He did not plant the church and at the time of writing the letter, he has never visited them. Some Bible scholars think that Romans is a sermon and not a letter.

The golden thread running through the book of Romans is his advice to Christians living in a city riddled with crime, violence and other wrongful deeds. We know from history books that Caesar Claudius banned all Jews (about 40 000) from Rome. Therefore the Christian church in Rome consisted mainly of heathens. The next Caesar, welcomed the Jews back again. Tension developed between the returned Jews and the heathens who now controlled the Christian church. Paul was the right person to resolve the tension between these two groups.

One of the big issues was food. What are you allowed to eat and what not? We know that many foods were forbidden to the Jews. The main issues Paul wanted to address were: God, the Jewish laws, sin, faith and how to live a holy life. Romans is a very practical and logical letter. No believer can doubt the Jewish root of our faith after reading this letter, and yet Paul manages to highlight the heart of our Christian faith.



### **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

Show the video clip of Romans on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Romans? See who is first to find Romans in their Bible.



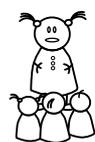
### **Interesting facts about the Bible book** ("Reminders" in the children's book)

The letter to the Romans is Paul's **longest** letter.

The letter to the Romans is unique because **Paul wrote to a church he didn't plant and had never visited.**

Some Bible scholars think Romans is a **sermon** rather than a letter.

One of the biggest issues in the church in Rome was **food, what they were allowed to eat and what not.**



### **Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?**

("Jesus@OT.com" in the children's book)

= Compare Romans 3: 1 – 3 with Exodus 19 and 20.

= Compare Romans 3: 1 – 3 with Deuteronomy 4: 8 (God's laws).

= Compare Romans 4: 1 with Genesis 17 (The example of Abraham).

- = Compare Romans 4: 4 - 8 with Psalm 32: 1 - 2.
- = Compare Romans 4: 17 - 18 with Genesis 12: 3.
- = Compare Romans 8: 31 with Psalm 56: 1 - 12.
- = Compare Romans 11: 16 with Numbers 15: 17 - 21.



### **Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)**

Lord Jesus, today we also have laws and social rules that force us to conform to society. Some people find it embarrassing to pray in a **restaurant** or public place before eating. We must not allow these social rules to become more important than Your Word. Help us to remain faithful to You.

Amen



### **Munchie fun**

In which country is Rome? It is in Italy. Today we eat a piece of pizza because it is typical of Italy. Everybody knows of Italy, but if we think that this is the place Paul preached and to whom he wrote a letter, it feels somewhat surreal. The events of the Bible took place in the REAL world, not in some fantasy land!



### **Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)**

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Romans 1: 16 - 17

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’”



### **My quiet time fun time**

(“Attachment” in the children’s book. But can be used as a group activity in class)

Many Bible scholars think of the book of Romans as a sermon rather than a letter. Have you ever listened to a sermon other than in church? On your iPad or in the car? Let’s go to the iCloud where our church’s sermons are saved. How do you download a sermon? If your church doesn’t have a service like this, google and find websites where you can download sermons to listen to.



### **Remind children of homework in their Odos book**

(#JesusandI in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Romans that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: Romans 1: 8

Monday: Romans 2: 1

Tuesday: Romans 5: 1

Wednesday: Romans 6: 8

Thursday: Romans 12: 1



### **Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)**

Paul wrote the letter to the Romans because he was travelling from Rome to Spain. How do you feel about your life journey at the moment? Are you satisfied with it?

## lesson 9



# Corinthians first letter



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Sweetie pies



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Paul:

#### **From: Paul**

We know more about Paul than about almost any of the other disciples or apostles in the Bible. Almost a third of the New Testament is either written by him or is about him. Some of the Bible scholars describe Paul as short, bow-legged, bald and with a crooked nose. His eyebrows were thick and his hands rough. No wonder he never married!

Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved sometime during Paul's childhood to Galilee, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism.

On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

#### **To: The Christian church in Corinth**

Paul planted the church together with Aquila and Priscilla. The church consisted of many different groups: former slaves, Romans, Greeks, rich and poor. They had many problems in the church. Find Corinth on the map in the *Odos* book.

#### **CC: Timothy and Chloe**

Timothy: He was already a Christian when he met Paul in Lystra on Paul's second missionary journey. He became Paul's spiritual son. He was hard-working, shy and a devoted follower of Paul.

#### **Subject: Problems in and advice to your church. How to love Jesus in Corinth.**

Paul identifies problems in the church and gives advice and teaches how to love Christ, even in adverse circumstances.

#### **Hello everybody**

**Can I be very honest with you? I was very angry with this church when I wrote the letter. They had many problems in their church! They were quite a diverse group: former slaves, Romans, Greeks, rich and poor. I wanted them to quit their stubbornness and not to choose sides and form cliques in the church. I wanted them to realise that they were one in Jesus!**

You can read in 1 Corinthians 13 what I wanted to teach the church about love. I hope your church is filled with such a love!

There were also many people in church who thought nothing of sleeping around and having many bed partners. They thought it had nothing to do with their Christianity. They didn't realise that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. I also heard they were taking each other to court, worshipped idols and were drunk during their meals at the Lord's Supper. What a mess?! The rich people quickly ate their own food and left nothing for the poor people to eat.

Although I was angry with the church, I remembered Aquila and Priscilla with much love and compassion. I stayed with them for 18 months and we planted the church in Corinth together. I was so upset about all the things I heard about the church that I thought of visiting them again.

I was so angry, I almost did not want to greet them properly. But don't worry, I am angry with the Corinthians, not with you!

Regards  
Paul

Extra content to share with the group:

This letter during Paul's third missionary journey is characterised by his honesty about the problems in the church. The church in Corinth had many problems. There was division in the church, with some following some leaders, and the others following different leaders. The moral decay in the church was terrible. When Paul visited Corinth, Corinth was a wealthy city with many different religions and gods. The Roman and Greek gods were worshipped in Corinth. Most of the people in Corinth were former slaves. The people in the church were therefore not part of the nobility, but they were wealthy because of their hard work and were often very stubborn about who could be their leaders. The problem in the church in Corinth is one still faced by the church today: how to be relevant in the world, but not to be worldly. Paul reminds the Corinthians that what you do with your body, does have an influence on your spirit and soul. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit!

Paul arrived in Corinth for the first time on his own and worked as a tentmaker with Aquila and Priscilla. When he left after 18 months, there was a newly established church in Corinth. After a while he heard rumours of the church's bad behaviour and that is why he wrote the first letter to the Corinthians. Some of Paul's co-workers informed him that his first letter was badly received. The behaviour of the Christians was worse than ever! Paul then went to Corinth, but the visit was a failure. The leaders of the church did not want him there. In 2 Corinthians the crisis in the church is something of the past. Paul was satisfied with the outcome and therefore wrote another letter.

In 1 Corinthians we read of all the problems in the church: division, wrong sexual conduct, court cases among church members, idol worship, extreme feminism, issues relating to food, drunkenness at the Lord's Supper and chaotic and confusing church services because of the speaking in tongues.



### **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

Show the video clip of Corinthians on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Corinthians? See who is first to find Corinthians in their Bible.



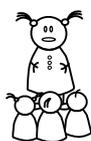
### **Interesting facts about the Bible book** ("Reminders" in the children's book)

Most of the people in the church in Corinth were **former slaves**.

The problem in this church is one churches still face even today: **how to keep worldly attitudes out of the church.**

In Corinth Paul worked as a tentmaker with **Aquila and Priscilla**.

Paul lived in Corinth for quite some time to strengthen the church, he stayed for **18 months**. The following were some of the problems of the church in Corinth: **division, wrong sexual conduct, court cases against each other, idolatry, food issues, drunkenness at the Lord's Supper and the gift of speaking in tongues that led to chaos and confusion during church services (name three).**



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

(**"Jesus@OT.com"** in the children's book)

- = Compare 1 Corinthians 2: 8 with Isaiah 53: 3.
- = Compare 1 Corinthians 2: 8 with Zechariah 12: 10-11.
- = Compare 1 Corinthians 2: 16 with Isaiah 40: 13.
- = Compare 1 Corinthians 2: 9 with Isaiah 52: 15.
- = Compare 1 Corinthians 5: 1 with Leviticus 18: 8.
- = Compare 1 Corinthians 7: 18 - 19 with Genesis 17: 9 - 14.
- = Compare 1 Corinthians 9: 13 with Numbers 18: 8 - 24.



## Our prayer for today (**"Chats"** in the children's book)

Lord Jesus, we live in the world, but with Christian principles. It sounds easy, but sometimes we stumble and give way to worldly sins and attitudes. Help us to live pure lives for You, please.

Amen



## Munchie fun

Even though Paul was angry with the church, one of the most well-known passages in the Bible is the verses about what love is. Paul wanted to tell the Corinthians that the church is nothing without love. Let's eat a sweetie pie and think of how the church should love each other.



## Bible verse for the week (**"You've got mail"** in the children's book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

1 Corinthians 1: 10

"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought."



## My quiet time fun time

(**"Attachment"** in the children's book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

Paul worked as a tentmaker in Corinth. If we call somebody a tentmaker today, what does it mean? Google to see what the responsibilities of a tentmaker are. Do you think a person can only be a tentmaker for Christ in the church? Do you think a person has to study theology to be a tentmaker?



## Remind children of homework in their Odos book

(**"#JesusandI"** in the children's book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones.

After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from 1 Corinthians that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

- Sunday: 1 Corinthians 1: 9
- Monday: 1 Corinthians 2: 5
- Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 5: 6 - 7
- Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 8: 8
- Thursday: 1 Corinthians 15: 3 - 4



## Thought of the day (**"Jesus@audio"** in the children's book)

Is it sometimes difficult to love and follow Jesus when you are among worldly people and things? What is difficult about it?

## Lesson 10

# Corinthians 2nd letter

10



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Jelly sweets in the shape of a mouth or lips



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses. The following is the e-mail from Paul:

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Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved sometime during Paul's childhood to Galilee, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism.

On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

#### **To: My church in Corinth**

Paul planted the church together with Aquila and Priscilla. The church consisted of many different groups: former slaves, Romans, Greeks, rich and poor. They had many problems in the church. Find Corinth on the map in the *Odos* book.

#### **CC: Timothy, Titus and a couple of false teachers**

Timothy: He was already a Christian when he met Paul in Lystra on Paul's second missionary journey. He became Paul's spiritual son. He was hard-working, shy and a devoted follower of Paul.

#### **Subject: Love and loss in my and the church's lives**

**Paul proclaims the gospel and shares in the love and loss of his fellow Christians' lives.**

**Hello everybody**

Oh, how I enjoyed writing this second letter to the Corinthians! I was so upset while writing my first letter, but it seems to have had the desired effect. I was satisfied with the way the Christians in Corinth straightened things out. I was not that concerned with whether they liked me or not, but that the message of Jesus must stand out above all.

The church was saddened by my first letter, but as I wrote to them, I was glad that their sadness caused them to repent. However, it was also clear to me that not everybody in the church accepted my authority and teaching. I therefore had to defend my position as apostle once again, as you will read in 2 Corinthians 11 and 12. To defend my position as apostle is always difficult to me, because it feels as if I have to boast about myself. I would much rather talk about what Jesus has done than about my own experiences.

It is quite difficult to discipline someone. Your teachers and parents will know what I am talking about. You have to be firm, accurate with the facts and honest. Be gentle and kind after you had to discipline someone. The most important thing to remember when talking to someone about bad behaviour is to put Christ's message first, not your own feelings. This is exactly what I tried to do in this letter and I hope the church realised that I did it because I cared about them.

Always remember that if the Lord corrects you through your parents, it is not because they don't love you, but precisely because they care.

Regards

Paul

Extra content to share with the group:

Later on the crisis in the church in Corinth was something of the past and Paul was satisfied with the outcome and therefore wrote another letter. 2 Corinthians is a very personal letter and is addressed to the church leaders rather than to the church as a whole. During this time Paul's relationship with the church leaders in Corinth was quite strained. They attacked Paul's message as well as his character and Paul defended himself. Paul was not that concerned with his own reputation, but about the integrity of his message. Paul tells about his love for the church and shares his feelings honestly. Paul gives advice to the church about how they should treat false prophets, because he knew the church trusted him.

Even though Corinth was Paul's most troublesome church, his letters are filled with good advice, even for the church of today. There is practical advice about living in a hostile environment and how the church should discipline its members. Be firm, accurate with the facts and honest. Be gentle and kind after you had to be strict. The message must be the message of Christ, not your own! Discipline in the church must be used to help people, not to chase them away.



### **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

Show the video clip of Corinthians on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Corinthians? See who is first to find Corinthians in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book** ("Reminders" in the children's book)

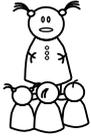
The second letter to the Corinthians was addressed to the **church leaders** rather than to the church members.

This church was Paul's **most troublesome** church.

Paul had a strained relationship with the church leaders, because they **attacked his message as well as his character**.

Paul's advice about discipline in the church was: **Be firm, accurate with the facts and honest. Be gentle and kind after disciplining someone.**

Discipline in the church should **help people, not chase them away**.



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

("Jesus@OT.com" in the children's book)

- = Compare 2 Corinthians 3: 1-2 with Jeremiah 31: 33.
- = Compare 2 Corinthians 6: 16 with Exodus 25: 8.
- = Compare 2 Corinthians 6: 1 with Jeremiah 31: 1.



## Our prayer for today ("Chats" in the children's book)

Lord Jesus, it is not always easy to correct someone who goes astray. We would rather avoid it and look the other way. We want to follow Paul's example and be honest and truthful when we see something is amiss with one of our fellow believers. Give us the courage we need!

Amen



## Munchie fun

In the old days when someone was disciplined, they got a hiding or received a tongue lashing. Is this the way Paul suggests that someone must be disciplined in church? We eat jelly lips to remind us that when we speak to our fellow believers, we must help them to grow closer to Christ, not chase them away.



## Bible verse for the week ("You've got mail" in the children's book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

2 Corinthians 5: 20

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."



## My quiet time fun time

("Attachment" in the children's book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

What kind of behaviour have you seen at school of children who call themselves Christians, but don't act that way? Think of 5 things. Do you do any of these things? Why?



## Remind children of homework in their Odos book

("#JesusandI" in the children's book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from 2 Corinthians that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

- Sunday: 2 Corinthians 1: 3
- Monday: 2 Corinthians 2: 14
- Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 4: 7
- Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 9: 6 - 7
- Thursday: 2 Corinthians 13: 5



## Thought of the day ("Jesus@audio" in the children's book)

Are your parents in a cell group? Do you know what is "love and loss"? Who do you like to talk to about what's going on in your life?

# Galatians



## Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



## Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Fruit salad  
Coloured paper  
Scissors



## Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Paul:

### **From: Paul**

We know more about Paul than about almost any of the other disciples or apostles in the Bible. Almost a third of the New Testament is either written by him or is about him. Some of the Bible scholars describe Paul as short, bow-legged, bald and with a crooked nose. His eyebrows were thick and his hands rough. No wonder he never married!

Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved sometime during Paul's childhood to Galilee, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism.

On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

### **To: My church in Galatia**

Bible scholars think that the letter to the Galatians was the first letter Paul wrote to a church. Paul visited the region of Galatia during his missionary journeys. Find Galatia on the map in the *Odos* book.

### **CC: Peter, Barnabas, Titus and a couple of false teachers**

Barnabas: The meaning of his name is "son of comfort". He encouraged Paul and Mark on their missionary journeys.

### **Subject: Guidelines for the Christian life... and you don't have to be a Jew to qualify!**

Hello everybody

I'll come straight to the point, I was not happy with this church at all. I even had trouble greeting them properly. The church in Galatia was straying from the gospel I had proclaimed to them.

Jews from other parts of the world came to visit them and taught them that they should keep all the Jewish laws before they could call themselves disciples of Jesus. Friends, I made it quite clear

that anybody who dares to do such a thing will be under the curse of God. It may seem a bit harsh, but I know that if people replace the work of salvation of Jesus by any other manmade thing, the gospel will profit them nothing.

For the members of the church who kept the law, it was very difficult to accept that circumcision, keeping the Sabbath, and eating kosher food will not earn you a place in heaven. But it's true! I wanted them to understand that we are not united through keeping the law, but through the Spirit of Jesus – the Spirit of love. It is His Spirit who lives in and through us and makes us one people, whether we are a Jewish, Greek, Afrikaans-speaking, Xhosa or English, we are one in Jesus.

**Always remember, as Christians we follow the law of Jesus, the law of love, not the law of Moses!**

Regards, Paul

Extra content to share with the group:

Paul was knowledgeable about the Jewish faith as well as the Christian faith.

The church in Galatia did not realise that they were truly free from keeping the law and therefore chose to keep the Jewish laws. Jesus liberated them from keeping the law and yet they turned back to it. It doesn't make sense! You are not saved because you keep the law. You receive the Holy Spirit through faith, not by keeping the law. To be circumcised was one of the Jewish laws. When a little boy was 8 days old the foreskin of his penis was cut off by a priest. It is a painful procedure, but does not cause any permanent damage. Jews still do it today and believe that it makes them holy.

Luther, one of the church fathers, considered Galatians to be the best book in the Bible! Galatians is an emotional letter and Paul does not hide that he was annoyed with this church. Paul is not afraid to be personal and tells the Galatians of his own short-comings and the arguments he had with fellow believers. To argue about things in the Bible can have a positive effect if it leads to new insight. This letter is focused on the intellect of the reader and Paul uses arguments as a rabbi would do in a sermon.

The letter to the Galatians does not focus on matters of no consequence, but on what is truly important in the life of faith. Remember that this is a letter and that we have no insight into what questions the church asked or what they complained about. It is almost as if we are listening to one side of a telephone conversation.

Paul wrote because he heard a disturbing report about the church. False teachers were adding all sorts of things to the Christian faith and were blackballing Paul. For the Jews circumcision was non-negotiable! The Passover meal, the special way they had to prepare food (kosher), the Sabbath and the circumcision were the heart of the Jewish faith. Kosher food is food that is prepared in a certain way. You are not allowed to eat meat with blood in it. Meat and dairy products are separated. In strict Jewish households they have two separate kitchens and separate fridges. They are not allowed to eat any pork, like bacon.

It was difficult for Jewish Christians to accept that these Jewish customs and laws fell away. Timothy was circumcised as an adult, because Paul knew that an uncircumcised person would not be allowed to enter a Jewish synagogue and preach there. Christians follow the law of Christ, not the law of Moses. You cannot decide to follow some of the 613 Jewish laws, you have to keep all of them or nothing. Was it necessary for the heathens to become Jewish before they could be Christians? Paul said: Definitely not!



### **Video clip (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)**

Show the video clip of Galatians on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Galatians? See who is first to find Galatians in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book (“Reminders” in the children’s book)**

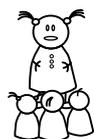
Bible scholars think that Galatians was the **first** letter Paul wrote to a church.

Paul was knowledgeable about the **Christian and Jewish faiths**.

The Christian church in Galatia still kept the Jewish laws.

**Luther**, one of the church fathers, called Galatians the most important book in the Bible.

The circumcision, keeping the Sabbath, and kosher food were very important to the Jews. Christians follow the law of Jesus, not the law of Moses.



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

- = Compare Galatians 1: 15 with Isaiah 49: 1 and 5.
- = Compare Galatians 3: 6 with Genesis 15: 6.
- = Compare Galatians 3: 8 with Genesis 12: 3, Genesis 18: 19 and Genesis 22: 18.
- = Compare Galatians 3: 12 with Leviticus 18: 5.
- = Compare Galatians 4: 23 with Genesis 17: 16 – 21.
- = Compare Galatians 5: 14 with Leviticus 19: 18.
- = Compare Galatians 6: 10 with Proverbs 3: 27.



## Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, we must love You above all else and our neighbours as ourselves. We know that the cleverest church leaders struggled with this law. We don’t want to argue about who our neighbour is, we want to show Your love to everybody we meet. Please help us with this, because it is not always easy. Amen



## Munchie fun

We eat fruit salad to remind us of the fruit of the Spirit. Who can list the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians? (Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) Look up Galatians 5: 22 – 23.



## Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Galatians 2: 16

“So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.”



## My quiet time fun time

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

Cut out the form of an apple, pear or orange from coloured paper. Write the fruit of the Spirit on it and put it in your Bible at Galatians. (Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control)



## Remind children of homework in their Odos book

(“#JesusandI” in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Galatians that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: Galatians 1: 11 - 12

Monday: Galatians 2: 16

Tuesday: Galatians 3: 13

Wednesday: Galatians 4: 4 - 5

Thursday: Galatians 5: 4



## Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)

Do you know any of the Jewish laws? Which of these laws seem strange to you? What laws do we as Christians have?

## Ephesians



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

A bunch of (dark) grapes



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's Odos book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Paul:

#### From: Paul

We know more about Paul than about almost any of the other disciples or apostles in the Bible. Almost a third of the New Testament is either written by him or is about him. Some of the Bible scholars describe Paul as short, bow-legged, bald and with a crooked nose. His eyebrows were thick and his hands rough. No wonder he never married!

Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved sometime during Paul's childhood to Galilee, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism.

On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

#### To: Christians in Asia Minor and Ephesus

This letter was a general letter and not only addressed to the Ephesians (for example the letter does not begin with any specific greetings). Paul lived in Ephesus for two years, and if he wanted to address the letter to somebody specifically, he would have named the people. Find Ephesus on the map in the Odos book.

CC: Tychicus

Subject: Church unity and strengthening your faith.

Hello all my friends

I wrote this letter from prison, but don't feel sorry for me. I was filled with courage and wanted to encourage the church in Ephesus!

This church was in a very busy city. It was one of the big harbour cities of my time. Friends, I wanted the church, and you, to know what tremendous blessings God (our Father) has blessed us with through the cross of Jesus. Many people say that God blessed them when God gave them material things, but I want you, as well as all my churches to know, that Jesus is our greatest blessing.

I wanted this church to know how much God loves each one of them! It may sound unreal, but it's true. The same power working in Jesus when He rose from the dead was in them, and in you too. This same power raised Jesus from the dead.

I end the letter by giving some practical advice about how to live as children of God. I also emphasize that they are new people in Christ with a whole new identity. They are not the people they formerly were, but are new in Christ. They must clothe themselves with the new clothes of Jesus. I call it the armour of God.

Always remember, God has blessed you in Christ with all the spiritual blessings of the heavenly realm!

Regards  
Paul

Extra content to share with the group:

The themes of the letter to the Ephesians are very similar to those in the letter to the Colossians. Both letters refer to the church as a body, relationships in the home and slavery. The letter deals with relationships, with the Lord and with other people. We are not saved by doing good works, but are saved to do good works! This makes Christianity unique – you can do nothing to earn your salvation. It is free! God accepts us just as we are.

The city of Ephesus was situated on a very busy trade route. People from Persia, Egypt, Greece and Rome often met each other in Ephesus. In Ephesus there were a huge theatre and a very big heathen temple.

Paul and some of the other authors mention the church in Ephesus in some of their other letters (Timothy, Revelation and 1, 2 and 3 John). In this letter Paul develops the image of believers putting on the armour of God to protect themselves against the enemy (Satan). You must wear the truth as a “belt” around your waist, the “breastplate” protecting your chest is the knowledge that God took all your sins away and the “shoes” on your feet is the readiness that comes when you have peace through Jesus. Your “shield” is your faith in Jesus, that ensures that no “arrows” of Satan will hit you, your “helmet” is the knowledge that you are saved, and your “sword” of the Spirit is the word of God. Now you are ready for war!



### **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

Show the video clip of Ephesians on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Ephesians? See who is first to find Ephesians in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book** (“Reminders” in the children’s book)

The letter to the Ephesians is a **general letter** and not addressed to a specific person or church.

Paul stayed in Ephesus for **2 years** and knew the people fairly well.

The letter to the Ephesians deals with **relationships, with the Lord and with other people**.

We are not saved by **our good deeds, but in spite of our deeds** (even though our deeds were horrible).

Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians while he was in **prison**.



### **Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?**

(“**Jesus@OT.com**” in the children’s book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

- = Compare Ephesians 1: 7 with Leviticus 17: 11. (The blood of an animal covered your sins, but now it is the blood of Jesus.)
- = Compare Ephesians 3: 6 with Isaiah 49: 6. (There was salvation for the non-Jews in the Old Testament, but now they are members of the people of God.)
- = Compare Ephesians 5: 31 – 33 with Genesis 2: 24. (The husband and his wife are one.)



### **Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)**

Lord Jesus, it is a difficult concept for us as humans: we want other people to be impressed by our conduct, and yet You are not impressed by any actions, charitable deeds, gifts or promises. Thank you that we can hold fast to the knowledge: We are already saved!

Amen



### **Munchie fun**

Long ago a meteorite fell at Ephesus. It was a big, black rock with many protruding points. It reminded the Ephesians of their goddess Diana. They began to sell souvenirs – rocks with protruding bumps. It reminded me of a bunch of grapes. We eat grapes to help us think of the Ephesians who were so silly as to worship rocks!



### **Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)**

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Ephesians 1: 6 - 7

“to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace...”



### **My quiet time fun time**

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

We are saved. That is WHY we want to do good deeds to glorify God. Think of something you and your family can do as an outreach/charity project. Write down some of your ideas and discuss it with your parents.



### **Remind children of homework in their Odos book**

(#JesusandI in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Ephesians that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: Ephesians 1: 3  
 Monday: Ephesians 1: 10 - 11  
 Tuesday: Ephesians 3: 6  
 Wednesday: Ephesians 5: 29 - 30  
 Thursday: Ephesians 6: 10 -17



### **Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)**

Your identity should not be in your family name, your achievements, your looks, your studies or your school, but in God. You are... a Christian and a child of God.

## Philippians



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Sugar Cubes



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses. The following is the e-mail from Paul:

#### From: Paul

We know more about Paul than about almost any of the other disciples or apostles in the Bible. Almost a third of the New Testament is either written by him or is about him. Some of the Bible scholars describe Paul as short, bow-legged, bald and with a crooked nose. His eyebrows were thick and his hands rough. No wonder he never married!

Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved sometime during Paul's childhood to Galilee, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism.

On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

#### To: The Christian church in Philippi

Philippi was a big commercial city situated on a well-known trade route. Gold and silver were mined in the mountains surrounding the city and provided the city with wealth. Find Philippi on the map in the *Odos* book.

#### CC: Timothy, Epaphroditus

Timothy: He was already a Christian when he met Paul in Lystra on Paul's second missionary journey. He became Paul's spiritual son. He was hard-working, shy and a devoted follower of Paul.

**Subject: True joy is only found in Jesus. (Thanks for the money you sent!)**

#### Hello to all my friends

I wrote this letter to the Philippian church from faraway Rome. I sent the letter with Epaphroditus, but he became quite ill! The Lord was gracious and spared his life. Just think Philippi was my first church in Europe! I was grateful for their encouragement. Even though there were many rich people in Philippi, their hearts of gold were more precious! In Philippi I met a dynamic lady, Lydia. She could do anything she put her mind to. Lydia provided a lot of assistance with the church.

**You will notice that I was very excited when I wrote this letter. I wrote about the joy found in the Lord Jesus and how wonderful it is to know Him.**

**To die when you are a Christian is actually to your advantage. Or what do you think? I lived my whole life to glorify Christ and wanted the church in Philippi to know this. I am not afraid of death, whether I die because of illness or because of something else, does not matter to me. The church in Philippi and you must know that to live, is all about Jesus, and when we die, we will be with Jesus. How wonderful this will be! Nothing is more important to me than to know Jesus and to be in Him.**

**As I said to the church, you must find your joy in Jesus, and in nothing else. When we have Jesus, we have all we need.**

**I did not want to say goodbye! Just know that I had complete peace in my heart, despite the awful circumstances I found myself in when writing the letter.**

**With love**

**Your friend Paul**

**PS Never be afraid to talk about Jesus!!**

Extra content to share with the group:

Paul wrote this thank you letter from Rome during the time of his house arrest. The other letters he wrote while in prison were the letters to the Ephesians, Colossians and to Philemon. Philippians is Paul's letter of joy. This church, the first one in Europe, was a source of encouragement for Paul. Paul dedicated his whole life to service for God. This life was a life of abundance, but also sometimes of poverty. But to know the Lord surpassed everything else in Paul's life.

Philippi was a big commercial city and was situated on a well-known trade route. Gold and silver were mined in the mountains surrounding the city and provided a lot of wealth. Normally Paul would start his ministry in the Jewish synagogue in the city, but Philippi did not have a synagogue. It was probably due to the fact that there were fewer than the prescribed 10 adult Jewish men, and therefore Paul started his ministry with a group of Jewish women. Lydia (who came from Asia originally) was one of the women in this group. She was wealthy and had influence. She sold purple cloth, which was much sought after in ancient times.

Not everybody was happy with Paul's preaching. A slave girl who had a fortune-telling spirit followed Paul and continually shouted that the people should listen to him. Paul got so irritated that he cast the spirit out. Her owners were furious, because they lost their source of income. They dragged Paul before the magistrate and he was locked up in prison. In Acts we read the story of the earthquake, how the prison doors were opened and the jailer and his whole family were converted. And this is how the church was planted in Philippi with a small number of converts.

When the magistrates found out that Paul was a Roman citizen, they begged him to leave their city. And this is why Paul stayed in Philippi only for a short time, before he moved on. But now there was a church in Europe!

The letter to the Philippians was written many years after these events. This church wanted to support Paul financially. The messenger did not only bring money, but he would assist Paul in his everyday life, because Paul couldn't leave the house because he was under house arrest. However, the messenger, Epaphroditus, became severely ill. He was so sick that Paul feared for his life. When he was well again, Paul decided to send him back to his people with a letter. This letter does not focus on any crisis or problem, but only on relationships. Paul was friends with the people in Philippi, he was not their pastor.

One of the Greek words that is often used in Philippians is the word "koinonia". It describes having fellowship or communion with other believers. One of the other words we read in this letter is "joy". Paul had so many problems, yet he only wanted to thank and praise the Lord. Paul was grateful for

prayer, faith, suffering, news about loved ones, hospitality and his love for Christ. Paul devoted his life to spreading the gospel of Jesus. If you live for Jesus, you have nothing to lose.

Paul struggled to end his letter, just as we sometimes find it difficult to say goodbye. We find no evidence of conflict in this letter, only of warmth and true friendship. What is evident in this letter is that a child of God can have perfect peace amid difficult circumstances.



### **Video clip (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)**

Show the video clip of Philippians on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*.

This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Philippians? See who is first to find Philippians in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book (“Reminders” in the children’s book)**

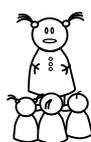
The church in Philippi was Paul’s **first** church in Europe.

The church sent **Epaphroditus** to Paul with money and to help Paul with his everyday needs.

Paul planted the church in Philippi with the help of **Lydia**, one of the Jewish women.

**Fellowship (koinonia) and joy** are the two words that summarise this letter.

Paul had complete **peace and joy** despite his awful circumstances.



### **Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?**

(“**Jesus@OT.com**” in the children’s book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

- = Compare Philippians 2: 5 – 8 with Isaiah 53. (This is probably a quote from an old church hymn, sung by the early Christians.)
- = Compare Philippians 3: 5 with 1 Samuel 10: 20-24. (Paul was of the tribe of Benjamin, just like the first king, Saul.)
- = Compare Philippians 3: 6 with Exodus 20. (It refers to the law of Moses.)
- = Compare Philippians 4: 18 with Leviticus 7: 12 – 15. (Both these Scriptures refer to a thank offering, not a sin offering.)



### **Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)**

Lord Jesus, just think, Paul wrote this letter while he was in prison and the main message is joy. Lord, why are we so easily discouraged and negative about life when You are in our lives?! Fill our hearts with joy and thoughts of Your glory, because we want to glorify You. Please help us not to be slaves of our circumstances.

Amen



### **Munchie fun**

What makes you happy? For most people it is things like a holiday, family, presents, birthdays and other material blessings. Let’s taste a sugar cube today (it’s nice and sweet) to remind us that we must have an intense and lasting joy. Your joy must be in Jesus Christ alone.



### **Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)**

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Philippians 4: 4

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”



## **My quiet time fun time**

**(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in class)**

How do you feel about giving money to the church or to church leaders? Do you think it is the responsibility of somebody else or of adults? Would you consider giving some of your pocket money to the church? Paul wrote this letter to thank the church in Philippi that they sent Epaphroditus with money to help Paul.



## **Remind children of homework in their Odos book**

**(#JesusandI in the children’s book)**

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Philippians that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday:           Philippians 2: 1 - 4

Monday:          Philippians 2: 14 - 15

Tuesday:         Philippians 3: 3

Wednesday:     Philippians 7 : 7 - 8

Thursday:        Philippians 4 : 4 - 7



## **Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)**

True joy is not determined by circumstances, but by your faith in Christ. Do you agree? Please remember this when you go through a difficult time again.

## Colossians



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Lollipops with something in the middle  
A4 paper  
Pencils



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Paul:

#### **From: Paul**

We know more about Paul than about almost any of the other disciples or apostles in the Bible. Almost a third of the New Testament is either written by him or is about him. Some of the Bible scholars describe Paul as short, bow-legged, bald and with a crooked nose. His eyebrows were thick and his hands rough. No wonder he never married!

Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved to Galilee sometime during Paul's childhood, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism.

On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

#### **To: The believers in Colosse**

Colosse was situated in the region we know as Turkey today. The city was situated on an important trade route and its inhabitants came from all over the world. Travellers from different parts of the world often stayed here. A cosmopolitan city implies people from different faiths: astrology (belief in the influence of celestial bodies), superstitions, Greek gods, Roman gods, Jews and Christians (to name a few) were present in Colosse. Find Colosse on the map in the *Odos* book.

#### **CC: Epaphras**

Epaphras: He was converted through Paul's preaching and took the Christian faith to his hometown Colosse.

**Subject: To fight against existing or future deceptions and faults in the church. To remind believers that in Christ they have everything they need.**

**Dear friends**

**I wish I could have left everything and gone to visit this church, but it was impossible... I was chained to a soldier in Rome when I wrote this letter! I have never met anyone from this church personally.**

**I heard that some of the church members mixed their Christian faith with all kinds of other philosophies and strange customs. Why? Christ is sufficient! Because they lived among people with different customs, they did not see this as a problem. They did not think it strange to bow down before images and worship them! Can you believe it!!**

**They did not understand that Jesus is the only way to God. Some believed that angels would help them to have a relationship with God or that they would be acceptable to God by eating certain foods. It is Jesus in us, the only hope of glory, or to put it another way the only one through whom we can have a relationship with God.**

**Trust ONLY in Christ, not on any other thing and you will inherit eternal life!**

**Regards  
Paul**

Extra content to share with the group:

During his ministry, Paul often heard of problems in churches. However, it was not always possible for him to leave everything and visit the churches immediately. So he often relied on letter-writing to address these problems. Remember, he was often in prison! Paul was under house arrest, chained to a Roman soldier, when he wrote the letter to the Colossians. Epaphras visited Paul and this is how it came about that the letter was written and delivered by the “postman” Tychicus. The letters to Philemon (individual) and Ephesus (general) were sent at the same time.

Paul wrote 3 types of letters:

- to address a specific issue or problem
- general letters circulated among the churches and
- individual letters addressed to people he knew.

The letter to Colosse was a letter to address a specific issue that troubled Paul.

Paul's letters usually started with his name, then followed the address of the receiver, greetings, a compliment, then you find the most important part/heart of the letter, a summary, final greetings and then his signature. The heart of the letter is not always clear from the start. Remember, we often read Paul's answer to a problem or question without hearing the question or the other side.

At this time Paul has never visited the church in Colosse, but Epaphras brought him all the news. This church was threatened by false teachings that mixed the Christian faith with all kinds of non-Christian philosophies and customs. They did not deny Christ as such, but wanted to add other ideas. Paul wanted to stress in his letter that Christ is sufficient.

Colosse was situated in the region that we know as Turkey today. The city was situated on a major trade route and its inhabitants came from all over the world. Travellers from different parts of the world stayed in Colosse. A cosmopolitan city implies people from different faiths: astrology (belief in the influence of celestial bodies), superstitions, Greek gods, Roman gods, Jews and Christians (to name a few) were present in Colosse. Epaphras, who was converted through Paul's preaching, took the Christian faith to his hometown, Colosse. Epaphras came to visit Paul in Rome and probably helped him (physically) to write the letter with Paul's advice about the problems in the Colossian church. Paul had to be very diplomatic in the letter, because he did not know the people personally.

It was important to Paul that Christians must endeavour to live like Christ, with humility, sympathy, forgiveness and love.



### **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

Show the video clip of Colossians on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Colossians? See who is first to find Colossians in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book** (“Reminders” in the children’s book)

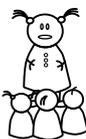
Paul was **under house arrest in Rome (in prison)** when he wrote the letter to the Colossians.

This letter was written to address a **specific issue or problem** in the church.

**Epaphras** came to visit Paul and probably helped him (physically) to write the letter which was then delivered by **Tychicus**.

Some of the faiths present in Colosse were: **astrology, Greek and Roman gods, Jews and Christians**.

Paul emphasised in this letter that **Christ is sufficient**. (It is not necessary to add anything to the Christian faith.)



### **Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?**

(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

- = Compare Colossians 1: 16 with Proverbs 8: 22.
- = Compare Colossians 2: 11 – 12 with Genesis 17: 9 – 14.
- = Compare Colossians 2: 18 with Exodus 20: 3 – 4.



### **Our prayer for today** (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, today we want to pray for other Christians. Thank you that You draw people to Yourself so that their deeds can tell of their love for You. Help Christians to grow spiritually. Help them to know You more and fill them with joy, strength and thankfulness.

Amen



### **Munchie fun**

Today we all get a lollipop with something in the middle. Christ must be the centre of your life, not any superstition.



### **Bible verse for the week** (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Colossians 2: 9 - 10

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.”



### **My quiet time fun time**

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in the class)

People believe in many superstitions (just like the people in Colosse). Some believe it is bad luck to see a black cat. Or that you will be unhappy for a long time if you break a mirror. Some sport stars have lucky underpants or perform some sort of ritual before going on the field. Today I want you to draw a ladder. Some people believe that you can’t pass underneath a ladder. Crazy! On each rung of the ladder write something that will help you grow closer to Christ. I’m thinking of things like faith, hope, love... add some of your own. We put our trust in Christ, not in any superstitions.



## **Remind children of homework in their Odos book**

**(#JesusandI in the children's book)**

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Colossians that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: Colossians 1: 11  
Monday: Colossians 2: 6 - 7  
Tuesday: Colossians 2: 20  
Wednesday: Colossians 3: 5  
Thursday: Colossians 3: 12 - 13



## **Thought of the day** (“Jesus@audio” in the children's book)

Christ is Lord and the centre of our being. We don't have to fear anything on earth. What frightens you? Know that you can triumph over any fear in Jesus' name.

## Thessalonians (first letter)



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

There are no resources for today's lesson.



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Paul:

#### **From: Paul**

We know more about Paul than about almost any of the other disciples or apostles in the Bible. Almost a third of the New Testament is either written by him or is about him. Some of the Bible scholars describe Paul as short, bow-legged, bald and with a crooked nose. His eyebrows were thick and his hands rough. No wonder he never married!

Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved sometime during Paul's childhood to Galilee, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism.

On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

#### **To: The church of the Thessalonians**

Thessalonica was an important harbour city and the nucleus of the region in its day. It was also an important financial centre. The people of the city were from different parts of the world (cosmopolitan). Find Thessalonica on the map in the *Odos* book.

#### **CC: Timothy and Silas**

**Timothy:** He was already a Christian when he met Paul in Lystra on Paul's second missionary journey. He became Paul's spiritual son. He was hard-working, shy and a devoted follower of Paul.

**Silas:** He was one of the first missionaries. He accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey. They sang praises through the night while they were in prison in Philippi and also had to escape from Thessalonica under cover of darkness.

**Subject:** To give thanks for the well-being of the church and to inspire them to live the way God wants them to.

Dear friends

You probably won't believe it, but this was the first letter I wrote to one of the churches. I only visited the church in Thessalonica for a short time, but I cannot tell you how much I cared for

this church! I was so happy when Silas and Timothy told me about the church's well-being. They truly lived the gospel. They showed their faith in their conduct, even though they suffered a lot of persecution. And this is what I expect from all of you!

I wrote this letter to encourage them to persevere in their good work and to strengthen their faith in Jesus. I encouraged them by using three prayers. That's right, you can write a prayer in the form of a letter.

My advice to the church in Thessalonica was: Take care of your marriages and be faithful in your job! I did not want the church to lose faith in the second coming of Jesus, neither should you, who already live in the 21st century. You don't know when this will happen! The Bible says that nobody knows the date or time of the second coming, so don't believe anybody's false claims to know the date or time. As I asked the church in Thessalonica, I also ask of you: Stay away from evil and do what is good to the glory of Jesus! Or is it unfair to expect this of the boys?!

Much love!  
Paul

Extra content to share with the group:

The two letters to the Thessalonians were written within a couple of months of each other. Paul, Silas and Timothy were the people who visited Thessalonica previously. The two letters differ in almost every respect from each other. The first letter is warm and personal and Paul mentions how much he cares for the church.

Thessalonica was an important harbour city and the nucleus of the region in its day. It was also an important financial centre. The people of the city were from different parts of the world (cosmopolitan). Paul's custom was to preach in the synagogue of every city he visited. While Paul was on his second missionary journey some of the Jews prevented Paul from preaching in Thessalonica. He therefore stayed in Thessalonica for only a short time. The church he left behind was strong and boasted a few prominent women as members.

Paul was very happy to receive news from Silas and Timothy about the well-being of the church. The church also sent money for Paul with the two messengers. Paul was therefore in a very good mood when he wrote the first letter to the Thessalonians. Paul was happy that the church had the opportunity to hear the gospel. But not only that, he was also happy that they showed their faith through good works and miracles. Paul stresses the importance of faith, hope and love and describes their faith as that of people who *turned away* from idols to serve the living God and to wait for eternal life.

Paul also defends his character in the first letter. Many unbelievers accused Paul of being fanatical, of misleading people, that he did not have a real job, of being autocratic, of preaching for money and that he was a coward who ran away when things got tough.

Paul knew of two areas that could be a stumbling block for the church in Thessalonica – their marriages and their jobs. Men should consider their marriages as holy and their behaviour at work should reflect their love for Christ. Some of the members of the church resigned from their jobs to await the second coming. Paul admonished them about this. People who could work, SHOULD work. Nobody knows when Jesus will return!

The church in Thessalonica was strong in faith and love, but weak in hope. It was difficult for them to believe in eternal life. Paul also stressed that they must be patient, forgiving, filled with joy and thankful. They must pray and guard against laziness, apathy and weakness. Paul strengthens their faith and encourages them to resist temptations.



### **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

Show the video clip of Thessalonians on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Thessalonians? See who is first to find Thessalonians in their Bible.



## Interesting facts about the Bible book (“Reminders” in the children’s book)

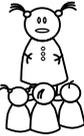
Paul, Silas and Timothy were the people who visited Thessalonica previously.

The first letter to the church in Thessalonica is warm and personal.

Paul stayed in Thessalonica for only a short time, because the Jews prevented Paul from preaching and a riot almost broke out.

The church also sent money for Paul with Silas and Timothy.

Paul was accused of being fanatical, of misleading people, that he did not have a real job, of being autocratic, of preaching for money and that he was a coward who ran away when things got tough.



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

= Compare Isaiah 13: 6 – 12 with 1 Thessalonians 5: 2.

= Compare Joel 2: 28 – 32 with 1 Thessalonians 5: 2.

= Compare Zephaniah 1: 14 – 18 with 1 Thessalonians 5: 2.



## Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, we don’t know when You will return, but we look forward to that day! Help us to watch and live our lives in such a way that we will be ready for Your return.

Amen



## Munchie fun

Today we will not eat anything. Today we are thinking of missionaries, like Paul, who often suffer without money and food when they go out to preach the good news about Jesus. I want to urge you to bring some of your pocket money to class next week, so that we can encourage and surprise our church’s missionary with a gift.



## Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

1 Thessalonians 4: 1

“As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.”



## My quiet time fun time

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

When Paul visited Thessalonica the first time, God closed the door to a certain extent. Paul had to flee, before he felt his work was completed. Obstacles should not discourage you. When something is unavoidable, accept it as part of God’s plan for you. Have you been discouraged by obstacles in your life? List these obstacles and pray earnestly about them and ask God for the ability to accept them.



## Remind children of the homework in their Odos book

(#JesusandI in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the QR Scanner app on their cell phones.

After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Thessalonians that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: 1 Thessalonians 2:4

Monday: 1 Thessalonians 3: 12 – 13

Tuesday: 1 Thessalonians 4: 14

Wednesday: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 2

Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 18



## Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)

You believe that the Lord will return and your life must show it. Show your faith through your works and good deeds! Do you think people know by your conduct that you are a child of Jesus?

## Thessalonians (second letter)



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Jelly watches



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Paul:

#### **From: Paul**

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Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved sometime during Paul's childhood to Galilee, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism.

On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

#### **To: The church in Thessalonica**

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#### **CC: Timothy and Silas**

**Timothy:** He was already a Christian when he met Paul in Lystra on Paul's second missionary journey. He became Paul's spiritual son. He was hard-working, shy and a devoted follower of Paul.

**Silas:** He was one of the first missionaries. He accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey. They sang praises through the night while they were in prison in Philippi and also had to escape from Thessalonica under cover of darkness.

**Subject:** To give the church the proper perspective about the second coming of Jesus.

Dear friends

I must admit that I was very upset when I wrote this second letter to the church in Thessalonica! However, there was a ray of light. The church in Thessalonica remained strong in their faith despite severe persecution.

Let me tell you why I was so upset: A couple of the Thessalonians misunderstood my first letter completely. All of us (you too) live in the end times, **BUT NOBODY KNOWS WHEN JESUS WILL RETURN. NOT I NOR YOU!** Can I make it any clearer?! Some of them resigned their jobs and only waited for the Lord's return! Who will put food on the table if everybody just sits around trying to keep themselves holy? Actually they were just the loafers in the church, I think today you will call them "spungers".

You must walk on the right way with Jesus and be prepared for His return... this is what I wrote to the church in Thessalonica in my first letter! I emphasize it in this letter again!

I hope you get the message the first time!

Regards  
Paul

Extra content to share with the group:

The two letters to the Thessalonians were written within a couple of months of each other. Paul, Silas and Timothy were the people who visited Thessalonica previously. The two letters differ in almost every respect from each other. In the second letter Paul comes across as cold and impersonal, almost clinical. The tone of the letter tells us that Paul must have been very upset.

Paul starts his letter with a compliment – the church remained strong in their faith, even though they endured much persecution. Paul assures the church that God will deal with the persecutors.

It seems that some members of the congregation misunderstood Paul's first letter. They believed that the second coming is at hand. Many of the people focused so much on the second coming of Jesus that they ceased working and only waited for the Lord's return. Paul is almost severe when he says, "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat!" God is not that concerned with what kind of work you do, but more in whether you do your job well. God looks at your character, not your achievements.

Paul asks the church to pray for him, because he knows the power of prayer. We note two aspects in the letter to the Thessalonians:

- We must walk with God. Can you remember the meaning of Odos? (The way) We must walk with Jesus on the way or road and try to be more like Him every day.
- We must wait and be ready for the second coming of Jesus.

Since Paul wrote this letter, almost 2000 years have passed. What applied to the church in Thessalonica, also applies to us. When Jesus returns He wants to find us busy with proclaiming His gospel.



### **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

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### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Thessalonians? See who is first to find Thessalonians in their Bible.



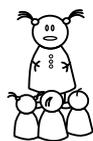
### **Interesting facts about the Bible book** ("Reminders" in the children's book)

In the second letter to the church in Thessalonica Paul's tone is **cold and impersonal, almost clinical**. Paul starts his letter with a compliment: **their faith was strong amid much persecution**.

Many members of the church were so focused on the second coming of Jesus **that they ceased working**.

God cares about your **character**, not your **achievements**.

We note two aspects in the letter to the Thessalonians: **The walk with God and the waiting for the second coming.**



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)

Look at the command God gave Adam in Genesis to cultivate the earth. Google and find the specific verse in Genesis. Compare this to the command to keep working in 2 Thessalonians 3: 6 – 13.



## Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, we live among unbelievers who sometimes make it difficult for us to follow You wholeheartedly. Help us not to retaliate or take the law into our own hands. We know it is worth it to follow You. Help us to work hard while we are waiting for Your return.

Amen



## Munchie fun

We eat jelly watches to remind us that we do not know the day or hour of Jesus’ return. It will be a surprise. We have to live in such a way that we are always ready.



## Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

2 Thessalonians 1: 11

“With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.”



## My quiet time fun time

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

Through the ages there were many people who predicted the exact date of the Lord’s return. Then everybody must be warned! Have you heard any of these predictions? It is almost like a piece of gossip which you start to believe. Even in our own country there are stories like this. Google “end time prophecies” and see if you find any interesting stories. Nobody knows when Jesus will return.



## Remind children of the homework in their Odos book

(“#JesusandI” in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Thessalonians that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: 2 Thessalonians 1: 6 – 8

Monday: 2 Thessalonians 1: 11

Tuesday: 2 Thessalonians 2: 3

Wednesday: 2 Thessalonians 2: 16 – 17

Thursday: 2 Thessalonians 3: 16



## Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)

God wants to use you today. Don’t worry too much about the future. Persevere every day in your faith and in this way fulfil your calling. What do you think is your calling?

## Timothy (first letter)



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Jelly sweets shaped like human figures



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Paul:

#### From: Paul

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Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved sometime during Paul's childhood to Galilee, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism.

On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

#### To: Timothy

He was already a Christian when he met Paul in Lystra on Paul's second missionary journey. He became Paul's spiritual son. He was hard-working, shy and a devoted follower of Paul. He was Paul's faithful friend and at this time was a full-time minister in Ephesus.

#### CC: The church leaders in Ephesus

Find Ephesus on the map in the *Odos* book.

**Subject:** To teach and encourage Timothy.

My dear friends

Does any of you have a friend that you really care about? I want to share the following with you: Timothy was like a son to me and I was grateful for all his hard work in Ephesus. I was on one of my many journeys and thought that I would not see him again soon.

I tried to give Timothy practical advice in this letter. I knew he was feeling unsure of himself because he was still young. First of all I wanted him to realise that God had appointed him as leader in the church and he should lead the church by his example.

It was important to me to have good leaders in the church. Leaders who devoted their whole life to following Jesus and were willing to proclaim the gospel fearlessly. This is what I advised Timothy. I also made it clear that he must not allow anyone to teach false doctrine in the church.

Timothy also had to speak to the church leaders about appointing deacons in the church to look after the temporal and material needs of the church and elders who could take care of the spiritual needs of the people. One person cannot take care of everything. That is when things tend to go awry.

I told Timothy to pray for everybody in his church and to behave in such a way that nobody can point a finger at the church or say evil things about Jesus. This is also my advice to you. Remember, we are all leaders in one way or another and people will look at our lives to see if our message is the truth.

May grace be with you all through faith!

Love

Paul, your faithful friend

Extra content to share with the group:

The letters to Timothy are called pastoral letters, because Timothy was a leader of a church. He was one of Paul's faithful friends and at this time he was a full-time minister in Ephesus. Paul was worried that he would be unable to visit Timothy in the near future and wanted to give some guidelines for Timothy's ministry. He advised Timothy about how to handle people who spread false doctrines, but also gave advice about church organisation. Paul focused on prayer in the church, the role of men and women in the church, requirements for elders, deacons and slaves, and how to treat people and also rich people in the church.

Bible scholars are of the opinion that Paul was travelling in Greece or Macedonia while writing the letter to Timothy.

Timothy grew up in a Judeo-Christian house and his values were based on those of his family. Timothy was a second generation Christian, the first time we read of someone like that in the Bible. He came from Lystra, one of the first towns Paul converted people on his missionary journeys. Timothy was not circumcised, even though his mother and grandmother were Jewish. His father was Greek. Paul circumcised Timothy on one of his later missionary journeys, because he knew it would help him gain access to synagogues. Uncircumcised people were not allowed in Jewish synagogues. It is also interesting to note that the Bible says that Timothy had health problems. He had trouble with his stomach and digestion.

This letter still provides us with practical guidelines for fulfilling our duties in church today. We must follow the right spiritual leaders, but we also have to set an example for others in our spiritual lives. There were elders in Timothy's congregation, but according to Paul they were the wrong kind of leaders. Paul guides Timothy about:

- The members of the church
- The troublemakers
- Proclaiming the truth

Timothy's congregation should not focus on visits from the apostles, but should appoint their own leaders. Deacons were appointed to take care of the temporal needs of the church (such as financial contributions) and elders to take care of the spiritual needs. Church leaders should have a good heart, a clear conscious and sincere faith in Christ. They could use the Old Testament, the apostles' teaching and other trustworthy sources in their teaching. Paul encourages Timothy to set a good example for others to follow.

The troublemakers in the church was one of the main reasons Paul wrote this letter: if you ignore this kind of problem, it only becomes worse over time.

Leaders do not have to be perfect, but should be people who are growing in their spiritual life and are more and more like Jesus every day. We have a responsibility as Christians to show the world that we are different.



### **Video clip (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)**

Show the video clip of Timothy on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*.

This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odosbook**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Timothy? See who is first to find Timothy in their Bible.



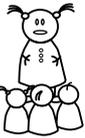
## Interesting facts about the Bible book (“Reminders” in the children’s book)

The letters to Timothy are **pastoral** letters.

Paul advised Timothy about how to handle people who **teach false doctrine**, but also about **church organisation**.

Bible scholars think Paul was travelling in **Greece or Macedonia** when he wrote the letter to Timothy. Timothy was a **second generation Christian**, the first time we read of such a person in the Bible.

We must follow the right spiritual leaders, but **we should also set an example for other people in our spiritual lives**.



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)

- = Compare 1 Timothy 1: 10 with Leviticus 18: 22.
- = Compare 1 Timothy 4: 4 – 5 with Genesis 1.
- = Compare 1 Timothy 6: 6 – 10 with Proverbs 30: 7 – 9.



## Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, we want to persevere with our Bible study. It is important to us to be an example for others to follow. We don’t want to come to church and hope to meet you only there. Help us to grow in our personal relationship with You in our quiet time.

Amen



## Munchie fun

Jelly sweets shaped like human figures (male and female). Paul gave Timothy advice about the role of men and women in the church. What are the qualities you look for in a leader? Do you think we need leaders in the church? Read 1 Timothy 2: 8 – 15. What does Paul say?



## Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

1 Timothy 4: 12

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.”



## My quiet time fun time

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

Even in our quiet time (if? and how?) we must set an example for other Christians. Do you keep a quiet time? Do you think it is important? When? Does anyone feel they should be more faithful in their quiet time? Are there different ways of having your quiet time with God? Begin TODAY with a routine of keeping quiet time.



## Remind children of the homework in their Odos book

(“#JesusandI” in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Timothy that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

- Sunday: 1 Timothy 1: 9 – 10
- Monday: 1 Timothy 2: 1 – 2
- Tuesday: 1 Timothy 3: 16
- Wednesday: 1 Timothy 4: 8
- Thursday: 1 Timothy 6: 9 – 10



## Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)

Through studying the Bible regularly, you know what God expects of you (knowledge). Now you have to convert your knowledge into a good Christian example. Do you think your friends are following your example?

## lesson 18

# Timothy (second letter)



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Heart-shaped sweets  
White paper  
Colour crayons



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Paul:

#### **From: Paul**

We know more about Paul than about almost any of the other disciples or apostles in the Bible. Almost a third of the New Testament is either written by him or is about him. Some of the Bible scholars describe Paul as short, bow-legged, bald and with a crooked nose. His eyebrows were thick and his hands rough. No wonder he never married!

Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved sometime during Paul's childhood to Galilee, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism.

On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

#### **To: Timothy**

He was already a Christian when he met Paul in Lystra on Paul's second missionary journey. He became Paul's spiritual son. He was hard-working, shy and a devoted follower of Paul. He was Paul's faithful friend and at this time was a full-time minister in Ephesus.

#### **CC: Luke and Mark**

**Subject: To encourage Timothy one last time and to teach him with regards to his work in the church.**

#### **My dear friends**

I wrote my second letter to Timothy while I was in prison in Rome. By the grace of God this letter reached him! I was very lonely in prison without my faithful friends and knew that the end of my life was drawing near. But the Lord was good to me and my faith grew stronger by the day!

I wanted to lay a few things on Timothy's heart for the last time. First of all I didn't want him to be ashamed of me who was in prison or of the gospel, that is a power of God that brings salvation.

Secondly I wanted to exhort him not to grow slack in his ministry and to warn him not to become involved in foolish arguments and frivolous talk.

Thirdly I wanted to warn him to avoid the desires many young people struggle with. The Bible is such a wonderful book, inspired by God and it helps us to follow God with our whole being. This is what I wrote to Timothy in my letter.

In the time before the Lord's return sin will increase! I say to you what I also told Timothy: run the race at full speed to the end. The prize you'll receive at the finish line will be worth it.

I miss you all.

**Paul**

Extra content to share with the group:

The letters to Timothy are called pastoral letters, because Timothy was a leader of a church. He was one of Paul's faithful friends and at this time he was a full-time minister in Ephesus. Paul was worried that he would be unable to visit Timothy in the near future and wanted to give some guidelines for Timothy's ministry.

Paul probably wrote the second letter to Timothy from prison in Rome. It is quite possible that Paul was quite lonely in Rome. Of all Paul's letters included in our Bible this one was the last to be written. One can infer from Paul's letter that he realised that the end of his life was drawing near.

Paul begins his letter with his usual greeting and giving recognition for good qualities. He urges Timothy not to be daunted in his ministry and not to be ashamed of the Word. He gives 5 specific commands in the second letter:

- Timothy must prevent people of arguing about mere words.
- He must be available to God.
- He must avoid frivolous (nonsense) talk.
- He must avoid the desires troubling young people.
- He must avoid arguments.

Paul gives advice about the church for the last time, but he also writes about how sin will increase in the time before Christ's return. He also shares about his hard time in Rome, that he is lonely, but that he is strengthened in his faith.

This letter should encourage each one of us to run the race until we cross the finish line (2 Tim 4:7). We must continue in our faith until the end, just like Paul.



### **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

Show the video clip of Timothy on the Read Scripture app or on Youtube at The Bible Project. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Timothy? See who is first to find Timothy in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book** ("Reminders" in the children's book)

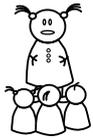
Timothy was the **leader/minister/shepherd** of the church in Ephesus.

Paul probably wrote the second letter to Timothy from a **prison in Rome**.

Of all Paul's letters included in our Bible this one was the **last** to be written.

We can infer from the letter that Paul knew **the end of his life was drawing near**.

This letter should encourage each one of us **to run the race with perseverance until we cross the finish line**.



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)

- = Compare Exodus 7: 11 – 12 with 2 Timothy 3: 8 – 9.
- = Compare Exodus 8: 8 – 19 with 2 Timothy 3: 8 – 9.



## Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, help us to inspire other people by our faith, as Paul inspired Timothy. We want to be faithful to our calling to spread Your word.

Amen



## Munchie fun

We eat heart-shaped sweets. Paul instructed Timothy to be an example to other believers in love, even though he was young (1 Tim 4:12).



## Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

2 Timothy 2: 15

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”



## My quiet time fun time

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

Paul encouraged Timothy to run the race (of faith) until he reaches the finish line (eternal life). Today we are going to design a medal for ourselves. Start with a circle and draw anything you want as the design for your medal of life in the circle. Maybe a cross, or a Bible verse, or bright colours, or a road (the eternal way). There are no rights or wrongs. Put this medal in your Bible at 2 Timothy 4: 7.



## Remind children of the homework in their Odos book

(#JesusandI in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Timothy that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

- Sunday: 2 Timothy 1: 7
- Monday: 2 Timothy 1: 9
- Tuesday: 2 Timothy 2: 11 – 13
- Wednesday: 2 Timothy 2: 22
- Thursday: 2 Timothy 4: 1 – 5



## Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)

The Holy Spirit gives you courage and wisdom. You must know beforehand that your faith will be challenged. Do you have your answers ready?



## Titus



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Ice-cream (even if it's only a spoonful for each child)



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's Odos book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Paul:

#### From: Paul

We know more about Paul than about almost any of the other disciples or apostles in the Bible. Almost a third of the New Testament is either written by him or is about him. Some of the Bible scholars describe Paul as short, bow-legged, bald and with a crooked nose. His eyebrows were thick and his hands rough. No wonder he never married!

Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved sometime during Paul's childhood to Galilee, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism.

On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

#### To: Titus

Paul left Titus on the island of Crete after they worked together on the island for a period of time. Titus had to take care of the organisation of the church.

#### CC: The church on the island of Crete

Find Crete on the map in the Odos book.

**Subject: Paul wanted to encourage Titus and teach him with regards to his ministry on the island of Crete.**

#### My dear friends

I wrote this letter with a heart filled with excitement, because I heard of the wonderful work my friend Titus was doing in Crete for the kingdom of Christ! It was no easy task to be the leader of this church. If you wanted to call a person a deceiver or a loafer, you called him a Cretan. Can you believe it?! Titus was one of my fellow workers I really trusted. The time we worked together on the island was very precious to me and that is why I had the boldness to write this letter to him to give him some advice.

I began my letter to Titus by stressing that God is different from any other god. He is not like any of the Greek gods. Our God is the eternal God and he cannot lie or proclaim any untruths. Titus must use this to explain to the church in Crete that they should not mix their faith in Jesus with that of any other Greek god, as they were doing.

Titus had to appoint leaders in the church, people who were not carried away by these false teachings. The leaders should be men who were good husbands and fathers and lived honestly before God and other people. I wanted the so-called leaders of the church to get rid of their myths and stories about who they said Jesus and God were. These people caused the church in Crete to degenerate, people lived without integrity and caused the gospel to be slandered.

**Friends, we must live in such a way that people will hunger to hear of the hope that is in us!**

**Your brother in Christ**

**Paul**

Extra content to share with the group:

The letter to Titus was, like the letters to Timothy, pastoral, because Titus was the leader of a church. He was an uncircumcised Christian from a heathen background. Paul's letter does not contain personal comments about Titus. It is clear, however, that Titus was a wonderful worker and that he had good results with his work of evangelism. Paul trusted him. Bible scholars think Paul wrote the letter while he was in Greece or Macedonia. Paul and Titus previously ministered together on the island and Paul now advised Titus about church organisation.

Paul wanted to make it clear to Titus that the church should not grow dependent on a pastor. The foundation is Christ, not any other person. Paul trained young ministers, like Titus, but he also encouraged them to train other people to continue the ministry.

Although there were many churches in Greece, there weren't any elders to help the church grow. Part of Titus's job was to appoint elders.

Paul gave Titus advice about:

- the members of the church
- the troublemakers
- proclaiming the truth
- false teachers who only wanted to make money.

Paul stresses the qualities a good church leader should have. The letter to Titus presents us with a clear picture of what the first century church looked like and what kinds of problems they had.



### **Video clip (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)**

Show the video clip of Titus on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Titus? See who is first to find Titus in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book ("Reminders" in the children's book)**

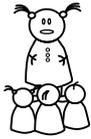
The letter to Titus was, like the letters to Timothy, **pastoral**, because Titus was the leader of a church.

Titus was an **uncircumcised** Christian from a **heathen** background.

Titus was a wonderful worker and had good results in **Crete** with his work of evangelism.

Paul wanted to make it clear to Titus that the church should not grow dependent on a **pastor**.

Paul gives Titus advice about **the members of the church, the troublemakers, proclaiming the truth and false teachers who only wanted to make money.**



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

("Jesus@OT.com" in the children's book)

No



## Our prayer for today ("Chats" in the children's book)

Lord Jesus, You don't require learning or beauty for ministry in your church. You are more interested in qualities like self-control and perseverance. We want our lives to be an example to other people. Help us to be a shining light in the world around us.

Amen



## Munchie fun

Titus was a preacher on the island of Crete. We eat something today that reminds us of an island or the beach. What do you often eat at the beach... maybe ice-cream? A special memory for many adults is how they used to eat ice-cream after a day at the beach.



## Bible verse for the week ("You've got mail" in the children's book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Titus 3: 1

"Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good."



## My quiet time fun time

("Attachment" in the children's book, but can be used as a class activity)

God does not want the church to be isolated like a monastery. In Titus we learn that we have a responsibility to take our place in our communities and the world around us. The reputation of the Christian faith must be enhanced by our conduct in the world. What characteristics would you admire in a Christian in his place of work? List 5 qualities.



## Remind children of the homework in their Odos book

(#JesusandI in the children's book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Titus that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: Titus 1: 6 - 7

Monday: Titus 1: 15 - 16

Tuesday: Titus 2: 2 - 5

Wednesday: Titus 2: 11 - 12

Thursday: Titus 3: 1 - 2



## Thought of the day ("Jesus@audio" in the children's book)

Things like self-control and a good character are more important to Jesus than learning or popularity. What are the leaders like at your school? What are the other children looking for when they vote for the learner council? What do you think are the qualities of a good leader?



## Philemon



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Jelly Babies



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Paul:

**From: Paul**

We know more about Paul than about almost any of the other disciples or apostles in the Bible. Almost a third of the New Testament is either written by him or is about him. Some of the Bible scholars describe Paul as short, bow-legged, bald and with a crooked nose. His eyebrows were thick and his hands rough. No wonder he never married!

Paul (or Saul, as he was called before his conversion) was very religious. He was born in Tarsus, situated in what is called Turkey today. Paul's parents were Jewish. It appears that they moved sometime during Paul's childhood to Galilee, because Paul studied at the University of Jerusalem. He was a student of the well-known rabbi, Gamaliel, and therefore had a very good theological training. He knew parts of the Torah (maybe the whole Torah) by heart. The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament. Paul was convinced that the Christian sect was a threat to Judaism.

On his journey to Damascus he met the Lord and was a witness for the Lord for the rest of his life.

**To: Philemon, a church leader in Colosse**

He was a leader in the church in Colosse. He was the owner of the slave Onesimus.

**CC: The other members of the church, Apphia and Archippus**

**Subject: To convince Philemon to forgive his runaway slave, Onesimus and to love him as a Christian brother.**

Dear friends

I was already an old man in prison when I wrote this letter to ask a favour of a friend. I could ask the favour, because I believed that Christ would speak to Philemon's heart as he has spoken to the heart of my new friend, Onesimus.

You see, Philemon's cunning slave, Onesimus, became my friend in Rome. Small world! Onesimus ran away from his owner and through a strange set of circumstances made my acquaintance in Rome, but I wanted to ensure that Onesimus returns to Colosse. I only hope that Philemon will forgive him! Onesimus has to set matters straight with his former owner.

The favour I wanted to ask was that Philemon shouldn't punish Onesimus too severely. Slaves often received a death sentence for running away, and that would really hurt me. Onesimus, like

you, accepted Christ as his Saviour. I wanted Philemon to see him as a brother, like I do, not as a possession.

I hope Philemon will be merciful to him and treat him as a brother in Christ.

I hope you will also treat your workers fairly one day and be merciful to people who have wronged you.

Regards  
Paul

Extra content to share with the group:

The letter to Philemon is part of Paul's prison letters (Ephesians, Colossians and Philippians are the others). This is the only letter of Paul that deals with only one person. We can also refer to this letter as a letter of recommendation, it is almost the same as writing a testimonial for someone. Paul wrote the letter to facilitate the meeting between slave and owner. Don't be angry with Onesimus, because... In this book the focus is on one big issue. Slavery was very much a part of life in Biblical times and one can see in this letter of Paul that many Christians participated in slavery without any qualms. Even though Paul writes nothing against the practice of slavery, he asks the owner to love his slave as a brother in Christ! If a runaway slave was caught, he usually received a severe punishment. Usually such a slave would be crucified, but if the slave-owner was gentle, the slave would only be branded on his forehead with the letters FF. In Latin it stood for "fugitive" and for the rest of your life everybody you meet would see immediately that you were a slave who tried to run away.

Christ came to remove all distinctions between people: colour, age, social standing, gender, wealth, learning and culture should not matter among Christians. In the old Roman and Greek civilizations it was important to know your "place" in society. All these qualities are things that can separate people from each other. Men were more important than women, Jews looked down on Gentiles, circumcised people discriminated against the uncircumcised, and if you were a slave, you had no say in anything. Philemon's slave, Onesimus, ran away and he may even have stolen some of his owner's possessions! It is quite ironic that the meaning of his name Onesimus is "useful". Onesimus was probably now quite "useless" to his owner. Somewhere in Rome his path crossed that of Paul and he was converted. Paul now sends the slave back to his owner, but pleads with Philemon to forgive him. This letter shows clearly how the grace of Christ should be reflected in our lives. Our unity in Christ must be visible in our lives. Break down the wall that separate you from people who are different from you, Christ demands it!

We must accept people, as Christ accepted us, we must forgive, as Christ forgave us, we must show grace, as Christ showed grace to us, we must love as we are loved.



### **Video clip (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)**

Show the video clip of Philemon on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*.

This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Philemon? See who is first to find Philemon in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts of the Bible book ("Reminders" in the children's book)**

The letter to Philemon is part of Paul's **prison letters**.

This is the only letter of Paul which deals with **only one person, Onesimus (and his owner Philemon)**.

Paul wrote the letter **to facilitate the reunion of slave and owner**.

If a runaway slave was caught, he was punished severely. Usually a runaway slave was **crucified, but if he had a gentle owner, he was branded on his forehead**.

Our unity in Christ must be **visible in our lives. Never think you are better than someone else**.



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)

The letter to Philemon does not refer directly to the Old Testament, although there are many instances of slavery recorded in the Old Testament. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt, Abraham married a slave to have children, Eli had a slave who helped him with certain tasks. Can you think of any other slaves mentioned in the Old Testament? Google and see if you can find any.



## Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, we are sometimes like slaves running away from our Master. It is sometimes difficult to be a Christian, or it feels like hard work. Help us to be humble like Onesimus, the slave. Help us always to come back to You and live humbly before You.

Amen



## Munchie fun

This letter was written for SOMEONE specific. We eat jelly babies of different colours to remind us that the letter to Philemon makes it clear that we may not discriminate against anyone, in Christ we are the same.



## Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Philemon verse 15 - 16

“Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever - no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother.”



## My quiet time fun time

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

Do you have a domestic worker or a gardener? Have you ever done something to show these workers that you care about them and appreciate them? Your homework this week is to talk to your workers. Do they have children? What does their husband or wife do? Where do they live? What does their house look like? What do they find difficult about their job? What do they like the most? What are their dreams? What were their dreams when they were younger?



## Remind children of the homework in their Odos book

(“#JesusandI” in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Philemon that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: Philemon 1: 4 - 5

Monday: Philemon 1: 7

Tuesday: Philemon 1: 15 - 16

Wednesday: Philemon 1: 17

Thursday: Philemon 1: 25



## Thought for the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)

All people are equal in Jesus’ eyes. Is there someone who makes you feel inferior? Do you feel you are better than somebody else? Maybe the younger children at school? Or your domestic worker? Or the dirty beggar at the traffic light? Why do you feel you are more important than they? Do you have any reason to think you are better? What does Christ expect of you in this situation?

# Lesson 21

## Hebrews



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

A feather  
A balloon



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from an unknown person:

**From:** The author of this letter is unknown

**To:** Christians whose faith was weakening

**CC:** Jewish believers

**Subject:** To encourage Christians, whose faith was weakening, to persevere.

My dear Christian brothers and sisters

Many people through the years have wondered if this letter could perhaps have been written by Paul or Apollos. It is not important to me that anybody should know my name. The message of the letter I wrote, is more important than my identity.

I wrote this letter to a church consisting mostly of Jewish Christians. You will notice that I made many references to the Old Testament, especially Leviticus to show to this church that Jesus truly fulfilled the Old Testament. I made it clear that Jesus is God's final word to man. Jesus is greater than Abraham, Moses or any angel. Jesus is the High priest who intercedes for us, He is the final sacrifice who took our sins away completely. No other sacrifice is needed.

I wanted this church to keep their eyes on Jesus despite the persecution and hard times they suffered. Jesus will never leave us on our own, friends. He is our shepherd! I wanted this church to spur one another on to follow Jesus and to serve Him and not to stay away from church gatherings. You must do the same and always remember Jesus is our High priest who intercedes for us.

Regards

Your unknown friend in Jesus

Extra content to share with the group:

The Hebrews letter is not so much a letter, but rather a sermon to which the ending of a letter was added. This letter contains many references to the Old Testament, because it was especially written for Jewish believers. When people are new believers or recently converted they usually are full of

zeal. They study the Bible and make huge sacrifices, but sometimes people lose their zeal when they go through hard times. People often doubt God's promises when they go through tough times. This is exactly what happened to the people to whom the letter of Hebrews was written. In this sermon or letter the believers are reminded of:

- All Christ has done and is busy doing for them.
- That they should work on their relationship with the Lord and their life must be a reflection of their faith.

You must see Jesus as the High priest in your life and must strive to maintain a good relationship with Him. You must honour God and talk to Him with respect. Jesus is the sacrifice for your sin – Jesus is the way to God.



### **Video clip (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)**

Show the video clip of Hebrews on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*.

This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Hebrews? See who is first to find Hebrews in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts of the Bible book (“Reminders” in the children’s book)**

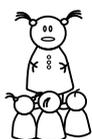
The letter to the Hebrews is not so much a **letter**, but rather a **sermon**.

This letter has many references to the Old Testament because it was especially written for **Jewish believers**.

Sometimes people lose their faith when **they go through hard times**.

The letter to the Hebrews reminds us that we **should work on our relationship with the Lord and our life must be a reflection of our faith**.

You must **honour** God and talk to Him **with respect**.



### **Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?**

(“**Jesus@OT.com**” in the children’s book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

Hebrews refers often to the Old Testament.

- = Compare Hebrews 1: 1 – 3 with Isaiah 6. (God speaks through visions with Isaiah.)
- = Compare Hebrews 1: 1 – 3 with Genesis 28: 10 – 22. (God speaks to Jacob in a dream.)
- = Compare Hebrews 1: 1 – 3 with Genesis 18 and Exodus 31: 18. (God speaks personally to Abraham and Moses.)
- = Compare Hebrews 1: 14 with Nehemiah 9: 6. (Angels were made to worship God.)
- = Compare Hebrews 1: 14 with 2 Kings 6: 15 – 17. (Angels take care of believers.)
- = Compare Hebrews 1: 14 with Psalm 34: 8. (Angels protect believers.)
- = Compare Hebrews 1: 14 with Exodus 23: 20. (Angels must execute God’s will.)
- = Compare Hebrews 3: 11 with Genesis 2: 2 (Rest on the Sabbath).
- = Compare Hebrews 3: 11 with Deuteronomy 12: 8 – 12 (The rest of the Promised Land Canaan).
- = Compare Hebrews 3: 15 – 19 with Numbers 14. (The Israelites could not enter the promised land, because they did not believe the promises of God.)
- = Compare Hebrews 5: 6 with Genesis 14 (The priest Melchizedek).
- = Compare Hebrews 7: 11 – 28 with Psalm 110: 4. (Jesus is our new High priest.)
- = Compare Hebrews 9: 1 – 10 with Exodus 36 – 40 (The tabernacle of Moses).
- = Compare Hebrews 10: 5 – 10 with Psalm 40: 7 – 9. (Jesus came to fulfil the Old Testament.)
- = Compare Hebrews 11: 8 – 11 with Genesis 12: 1 – 9. (Abraham moves to a foreign land.)

- = Compare Hebrews 11: 21 with Genesis 48: 1 – 22. (Jacob believed God would make Israel a great nation.)
- = Compare Hebrews 11: 22 with Genesis 50:25. (Joseph gave instructions that his body should be taken with when the Israelites move out of Egypt.)
- = Compare Hebrews 11: 33 – 35 with Judges 4 – 5. (Deborah wins a battle.)
- = Compare Hebrews 11: 33 – 35 with Joshua 1 – 24. (Joshua conquers kingdoms.)
- = Compare Hebrews 11: 33 – 35 with 1 Kings 19: 2 – 21. (Elijah is almost killed by Jezebel.)
- = Compare Hebrews 11: 33 – 35 with 2 Kings 20. (Hezekiah was stronger after his illness.)
- = Compare Hebrews 12: 16 – 17 with Genesis 25: 29 – 34. (The story of Esau shows that sin doesn't pay.)
- = Compare Hebrews 13: 2 with Genesis 18: 1, Judges 6: 11 and Judges 13: 3. (People who received angels.)



### **Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)**

Lord Jesus, it is often difficult to persevere in our faith when we go through hard times. We want to see Your promises fulfilled in our lives, but are impatient. Sometimes we want to give up! When we go through hard times help us to grow stronger in our faith, not weaker, please!

Amen



### **Munchie fun**

We often believe scientific theories, even though we cannot see it, but it is so difficult for us to believe God! Drop something (gravity), wave a feather (wind), rub a balloon above your hair (static electricity). If you believe in these things, belief in God is also possible.



### **Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)**

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Hebrews 11: 1

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”



### **My quiet time fun time**

**(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in class)**

Have there been hard times in your life when you were angry with God or did not want to talk to Him? Did something or someone help you to keep your faith? Are you still angry with God? When you are angry with someone without reason, you must ask forgiveness. Write a letter to the person you feel you have to forgive. You do not have to give the letter to the other person, just write down how you feel. Writing the letter often helps you to feel better.



### **Remind children of the homework in their Odos book**

**(#JesusandI in the children’s book)**

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Hebrews that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: Hebrews 2: 18

Monday: Hebrews 9: 24

Tuesday: Hebrews 10: 36

Thursday: Hebrews 13: 5 – 6

Friday: Hebrews 13: 15



### **Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)**

It is sometimes difficult to keep your faith when you go through hard times, but if you persevere by reading your Bible and praying you will grow stronger

## James



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Jelly sweets shaped like lips.



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from James:

**From:** James, one of Jesus' four earthly brothers and the leader of the Christian church in Jerusalem

**To:** The twelve tribes of Israel that formed churches of Jewish Christians outside Palestine

**CC:** Christian churches all over the world

**Subject:** Persevere in your faith even though you go through trials. Your life must show your Christianity.

Good day to all my friends who live so far apart and go to so many different schools

I don't have a lot of learning. My only "claim to fame" is that I was Jesus' earthly brother. However, through the years I have learned a couple of things that I wanted to share with the churches. These churches were persecuted and experienced a lot of pressure because of their faith in Christ. I wanted to encourage them by telling them that they should not think of suffering as evil, but see it as a privilege and a joy to suffer because of Jesus.

I also wanted to make it clear in my letter that if people claim to believe in Jesus, they should live as disciples of Him. It is not good enough to say that you believe, if your life doesn't show it. The devil also believes in this way!

Another theme I emphasized in my letter was the tremendous effect the way we use our tongue could have on people and our testimony as followers of Jesus. I use the examples of a small spark, a ship's rudder and a fountain to illustrate the power of the tongue.

Finally I wanted the churches to treat everybody the same. The church should not distinguish between people based on social standing or wealth.

Greetings from Jerusalem

James

Extra content to share with the group:

James stayed in Jerusalem and we know from other writings that he was called "James, the just" and "James, the one I can rely on". James is a very practical letter. James wasn't a learned man, but he was definitely very wise.

It is an easy letter to read, but very difficult to do what it says. Christians are often guilty of the fact that their deeds do not accord with their words. You must do what you say – else you are false and your faith a farce. This whole book wants to urge Christians to ACTION. James is one of the people Jesus appeared to after His resurrection, so James was totally convinced of the truth of the gospel. Luther was not so keen on the letter of James and put it at the back of his Bible, almost like an afterthought. He considered the book to be too practical, with too few references to Jesus, because it mentions Jesus only twice. It was the ideal time in history for the gospel of Christ to spread through the whole world. There were Jews living all around the Mediterranean Sea. They travelled to Jerusalem three times a year for the feasts, there were good Roman roads and most of the people could speak Greek.

James tells believers that they should be filled with joy even when they go through hard times. He explains why God tests us and how God influences our lives positively. You must listen to other points of view without judging people and show your faith in the way you live. Without deeds your faith means nothing. Live your Godly wisdom practically in the way you handle earthly wealth, the way you speak to others, your relationships, your integrity and even in sickness and in hard times. The letter of James reminds us almost of the book of Proverbs. This letter tells the Jewish Christians how they should live in an ungodly world. Many Jews left Israel for business purposes and were financially well off. Wealth is often a stumbling block for your spiritual life. Just think of things such as jealousy, ambition, selfishness, pride, power and court cases that are often associated with money.

James was a good orator and in the letter he uses rhetorical questions, conversations with imaginary people, personification, well-known images and quotes. His letter is almost like a wonderful speech!

James has much to say about gossiping. People who live far away from their hometown often talk of people they know. It's only human. James calls the tongue the most difficult part of a Christian's life to control. Your words (even when you are tired or irritated) show what's in your heart.

James speaks of two kinds of wisdom, one which is Godly (from above) and one which is earthly (from beneath).

James died as a martyr. The Jewish leaders took him to the highest point of the temple and commanded him to blaspheme. When he refused, they knocked him down. He didn't die immediately and they had to stone him. He called out that God should forgive the people for what they were doing and somebody took pity on him and beat him to death. When his fellow believers came to fetch his body for burial, they noticed his knees were calloused – he spent so much time on his knees that he had callouses on his knees!



### **Video clip (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)**

Show the video clip of James on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find James? See who is first to find James in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book (“Reminders” in the children’s book)**

James lived in Jerusalem and we know from other writings that he was called “**James, the just**” and “**James, the one I can rely on**”.

This book is **very practical** and urges Christians on **to action**.

Why was this the ideal time in history for the gospel of Christ to spread through the whole world? (**Jews lived all around the Mediterranean Sea and went up to Jerusalem three times a year for the feasts, there were good Roman roads and most of the people could speak Greek.**)

This letter tells Jewish Christians how they **should live in an ungodly world**.

James calls the **tongue** the most difficult part of a Christian's life to control.



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

("Jesus@OT.com" in the children's book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

- = Compare James 1: 6 - 8 with Psalm 25: 4 - 5.
- = Compare James 1: 17 with Psalm 27: 1 (The symbols of light and darkness).
- = Compare James 1: 17 with Isaiah 60: 19 - 22 (The symbols of light and darkness).
- = Compare James 1: 27 with Ruth 2. (Read what life was like for a widow in Israel.)
- = Compare James 2: 8 - 9 with Leviticus 19: 18. (Treat other people as you would like to be treated.)
- = Compare James 2: 25 with Joshua 2 (The story of Rahab).
- = Compare James 5: 9 with Genesis 3: 12 - 13 (Accuse others when you yourself are guilty).
- = Compare James 5: 17 with 1 Kings 17 (The prophet Elijah).



## Our prayer for today ("Chats" in the children's book)

Lord Jesus, we know we don't go to heaven because of anything we do, but by our faith. But this letter reminds us again that our deeds must reflect our faith. We believe You are Lord of heaven and earth and we want to be an example of this in our daily life. Help us please!

Amen



## Munchie fun

We eat sweets shaped like lips to remind us that James believed that the tongue is the most difficult part of a Christian's life to control.



## Bible verse for the week ("You've got mail" in the children's book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

James 1: 2 - 3

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."



## My quiet time fun time

("Attachment" in the children's book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

James says that wealth often is a stumbling block. This does not only happen when you are grown up. Many of you already save money for something and do not easily give this money away. It is a good idea to have a piggy bank in which you put some of your pocket money to give to the church or to help other people. In this way you can show that Jesus is your life. Start to save money like this today.



## Remind children of the homework in their Odos book

(#JesusandI in the children's book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from James that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

- Sunday: James 1: 2 - 3
- Monday: James 1: 13 - 14
- Tuesday: James 1: 16 - 17
- Wednesday: James 2: 22
- Thursday: James 3: 9 - 10



## Thought of the days (Jesus@audio in the children's book)

Life does not become easier as you grow older. As your faith grows stronger, God gives you bigger challenges because He knows you can handle it.

## 1 and 2 Peter



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Marshmallow fish sweets



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Peter:

**From: Peter**

Peter's actual name was Simon/Simeon meaning "reed". Jesus changed his name to Peter meaning "rock". It shows what Jesus would expect of Peter as the leader of His church in later years. Peter was a fisherman and lived in Capernaum. He and his brother were the first disciples called by Jesus to follow Him. After Jesus' ascension Peter became the leader of the disciples. Peter was such a human character, willing and full of energy, but also weak and cowardly. Peter's life turned around completely after his denial of Jesus and Jesus' appearance to him after His resurrection. "Follow me" was the first words Peter heard from Jesus and he built his whole life on these words.

**To: The believers in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey)**

Find the region on the map in the *Odos* book.

**CC: Silas and Mark**

**Subject: To encourage Christians and to give guidelines about suffering in the world we live in. To warn Christians against false teachers (pronouncements) and to urge them to grow in their faith.**

Greetings everyone

My name is Peter meaning "rock". My real name is Simon, but Jesus gave me this new name. I wrote these two letters from Rome to the churches in the region you would call Turkey today.

These churches went through very difficult times. They were persecuted and severely mistreated. I wanted to encourage them. You know, when you suffer like they did, it is easy to doubt your faith and wonder if Jesus really loves you. I wanted to encourage them by describing how God made them His own through the new birth and that they are now part of the family of God. They were not heathens anymore, but the temple of God, built with living stones. I wanted them to know that they were a royal priesthood, chosen by God to be a light in a dark world.

I also tried to give meaning to their suffering. God sometimes uses hard times like a fire to purify our faith. You see, we often have wrong ideas about who God is and what He promises, and through suffering we come to understand who God really is. Persecution can also provide us with an opportunity to testify about the hope we have.

When writing my second letter I was aware of the fact that my time on earth was drawing to a close and I wanted to leave something to the church to hold fast to when I was no longer there.

I urged the churches never to give up living for the Lord. I wanted them to know that they had received everything they need, through the Spirit, to live a Godly life. This life was in them and is in you and will come to fullness through the love we have for one another and other people. You know, there will always be people who question the gospel or use the gospel for financial gain. These church leaders proclaim things not fitting for a disciple of Jesus to do. They teach people they may have sexual relations outside of marriage and they make profits in dishonest ways. I used images I think would be hard to forget: I compared these so-called leaders to dogs returning to their own vomit or pigs wallowing in the mud after they were washed.

I remind the churches that Jesus will return to judge the world. Many people were complaining that Jesus is taking a long time to return, but I explained to them that with God a thousand years are like one day and that God in His mercy is “delaying” the second coming.

You must remember this as well.

Regards  
Peter (aka the rock)

Extra content to share with the group:

Peter's real name was Simon/Simeon meaning “reed”. Jesus changed his name to Peter, meaning “rock”. It shows what Jesus would expect of Peter as the leader of His church in later years. Peter was a fisherman and lived in Capernaum. He and his brother were the first disciples called by Jesus to follow Him. After Jesus' ascension Peter became the leader of the disciples. Peter was such a human character, willing and full of energy, but also weak and cowardly. Peter's life turned around completely after his denial of Jesus and Jesus' appearance to him after His resurrection. “Follow me” was the first words Peter heard from Jesus and he built his whole life on these words.

We know Peter was married, because Jesus healed his mother-in-law. Paul also mentions in one of his letters that Peter took his wife with him on some of his journeys. This letter was written while Peter was in Rome.

During the time Peter wrote this letter, Christians were persecuted throughout the Roman Empire. There was a big fire in Rome and someone had to get the blame. Emperor Nero decided that the Christians should be blamed! The believers Peter wrote his first letter to were immigrants in their region (western Turkey) and went through very hard times because of that. Social pressure and discrimination were severe. Peter does not give advice about how to flee persecution but how to persevere amid persecution! Don't run away from your problems, rather face them. Submit to the authority of the government of the day is a lesson we need to learn once again today.

People who are rejected by society are often without hope. Many people want to assert themselves or take revenge in these circumstances. People often feel imprisoned by their difficult circumstances. Their only desire then is to FIT IN and that is when Christians decide to keep quiet about their faith. Faith, hope and love are often presented as a way of life, but of these three HOPE seldom gets any attention.

The new birth should cause a Christian to be filled with hope and joy. Believers should establish their hope on God's grace, growing with other believers, behaving properly in society and participation in church. This letter is warm and caring and Peter's love for God is clear throughout the letter. Peter reminds Christians that they should be obedient to the government and that young people should respect their elders.

Peter's second letter was written 3 years after the first. Peter was crucified in Rome shortly after writing this letter. Peter warns the church about false Christians, especially those who are scoffers and question the return of Jesus. It looks as if Peter knew these people quite well and wanted to write to

them one more time before his death. Peter reminds them of their gifts and exhorts them to use it to God's glory. As mature Christians the readers must pursue knowledge of God. Many of the chapters remind us of the book Jude (especially chapter 2). Both these authors wanted to help churches who erred in their teachings. The church (and Christians) had to be strengthened because persecution was at a height. This letter has no greetings at the end and many Bible scholars wonder if the letter was really written by Peter because it differs so much from his first letter. We think Silas helped him with the writing of the first letter, but was not available to help him with the second one. Peter ends his letter with a warning: ignore his teaching and you may stray from the Christian way or embrace Christ and grow in His grace.



### **Video clip (Use in class if you access to the necessary equipment)**

Show the video clip of Peter on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*.

This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Peter? See who is first to find Peter in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book (“Reminders” in the children’s book)**

Peter's real name was Simon/Simeon meaning “reed”. Jesus changed his name to **Peter** meaning “rock”.

Peter's life turned around completely after **he denied Jesus and saw Him again after His resurrection.**

Why were Christians persecuted in the Roman Empire? **(There was a big fire in Rome and someone had to get the blame. Emperor Nero decided that the Christians were to blame!)**

How should believers behave in a hostile world? **Believers should settle their hope on God's grace, grow with other believers, behave properly in their communities and be involved in their church.**

In his second letter Peter warns the church against **false Christians, especially those who scoff and question the Second Coming of Jesus.**



### **Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?**

**(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)**

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

- = Compare 1 Peter 1: 24 – 25 with Isaiah 40: 6 – 8. (Don't think too much of yourself.)
- = Compare 1 Peter 2: 6 with Isaiah 28: 16. (Why believers should come to Jesus, the living stone.)
- = Compare 1 Peter 2: 7 – 8 with Psalm 118: 22. (What is the position of people who do not believe in Christ?)
- = Compare 1 Peter 2: 7 – 8 with Isaiah 8: 14. (What is the position of people who do not believe in Christ?)
- = Compare 2 Peter 2: 15 with Numbers 22 – 24 (The story of Balaam).
- = Compare 2 Peter 3: 5 – 7 with Isaiah 34: 4, Joel 3: 15 (The story of Noah).
- = Compare 2 Peter 3: 8 – 9 with Psalm 90: 4. (God looks differently at time.)
- = Compare 2 Peter 3: 10 – 13 with Isaiah 66: 22. (Eternal life is a wonderful prospect.)



### **Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)**

Lord Jesus, we know You will return, but this hope is often dimmed by our own needs. We almost want to say that it would probably not suit our purposes if you return right now. Help us to be serious about living our lives as Your children and to look forward to eternal life.

Amen



## Munchie fun

We eat marshmallow fish sweets to remind us of the humble beginnings of Peter who became the leader of Jesus' church on earth.



## Bible verse for the week ("You've got mail" in the children's book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

1 Peter 1: 7

"These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed."



## My quiet time fun time

("Attachment" in the children's book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

If the government is unjust and does not acknowledge God, do you still have to submit to it? What do you think? Let us pray for our government today. Start with the president and the leader of your province (get to know their names). Ask God to guide them, to give them wisdom and to use them for His glory and that they will be good leaders.



## Remind children of the homework in their Odos book

(#JesusandI in the children's book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Peter that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: 1 Peter 1: 13

Monday: 1 Peter 2: 11 - 12

Tuesday: 1 Peter 5: 5

Wednesday: 2 Peter 1: 16

Thursday: 2 Peter 2: 1



## Thought of the day ("Jesus@audio" in the children's book)

Have you heard of people claiming that we live in the end times and that Jesus will return on a certain date? What do you think of this? What does the Bible say about this? You can be certain that Jesus will return and that you will inherit eternal life if you believe in Him.

## Letters from John



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Marshmallow fish sweets



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from John:

**From: The apostle John (yes, the same author as the gospel of John)**

This John is not the same person as John the Baptist. This John (son of Zebedee) was a fisherman before he met Jesus. He not only caught fish, he also sold fish. He is sometimes called the “beloved disciple”. He, Peter and James were part of Jesus’ inner circle. John wrote these letters when he was already an old man (about 90 years after the birth of Jesus). He also wrote the gospel of John and Revelation.

**To: Non-Jewish churches**

**CC: Gaius, a leader of a small church, and other local churches close to Ephesus and in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey)**

**Subject: To strengthen believers in their faith, to emphasize the importance of love, truth and hospitality in a Christian’s life and to warn Christians against false teachers.**

Dear friends

I, John, wrote the three letters to the churches in the vicinity of Ephesus. Yes, you are right, I am the disciple whom Jesus loved very much. I also wrote the gospel of John and Revelation.

I wrote these letters because something terrible had happened in the churches. People had left the churches, because they no longer believed that Jesus was truly the Son of God!!! They also told this to people all around. How awful, everything we believe as disciples of Jesus is built on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead and that He lives!!! These churches should know that this is not simply a good story somebody told them. I was there!!! I saw everything with my own eyes.

This error caused a lot of dissension in the church and this is why I focus so much on love in my letters. God calls us to love one another despite our differences. I also write that someone cannot claim to love God, while they hate their brother. It’s impossible! They must avoid people who say that Jesus is not truly the Son of God or claim that He was not risen from the dead. I don’t want them even to eat with such a person.

In my third letter I ask Gaius to take good care of missionaries proclaiming the gospel. I also warn Gaius to avoid a church leader named Diotrephes. He only spread lies. Remember to love each other!!!

**Goodbye**

**John, the humble fisherman**

Extra content to share with the group:

The three letters of John is a mixture of general letters, not addressed to someone specifically and personal letters, giving a message to one particular person. John could touch Jesus, see Jesus and listen to Him. He was an eye witness of many of Jesus' miracles and sermons. His letters were written almost 30 years after He ate and drank and lived with Jesus. John was the only one of the twelve apostles who lived up to an old age and he later died in Ephesus. He wrote these letters because he was too old to travel and visit these people. John was a humble fisherman, but he knew Jesus was fully human and that is why his testimony is so valuable to us.

1 John was written to emphasize that Jesus is truly God. John addresses his message to children, fathers and young men specifically. These do not signify physical age, but rather spiritual maturity as a Christian. Remember the Bible often use only the male form of address, but this does not exclude women from the message.

To John Jesus was the "light" of the world. Because the church confessed that they believe in Jesus, their deeds and lives had to reflect their love for Jesus. How can you proclaim to love Jesus, if you can't get along with your brother? John never doubted that he would inherit eternal life.

The 2nd and 3rd letters of John are the shortest books in the Bible and John only needed one sheet of papyrus for each letter. These two letters are warm and friendly and one can see that it was written by an old man. John was in his eighties when he wrote these letters.

True, sincere love is hard to find nowadays. John is the only one in the Bible who wrote: God is LOVE. We have to live irreproachable lives as Christians. Be wary of people who want to let you stray from the right way by their coaxing (heresies).

John writes that one of the best ways to show your love for Jesus and others is to receive people in your home. Hospitality should be a normal part of your life.

John often uses contrasts in his three letters: life and death, light and darkness, truth and lies, love and hate, God's children and Satan's children, Christ and the antichrist. But the biggest contrast is that of heaven and hell.



### **Video clip (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)**

Show the video clip of John on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*.

This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find 1, 2, and 3 John? See who is first to find 1, 2 and 3 John in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book ("Reminders" in the children's book)**

The three letters of John are a mixture of **general letters not addressed to someone specifically and personal letters, giving a message to specific people.**

John was an **eye witness** of many of Jesus' miracles and sermons.

John was the only one of the twelve apostles who lived up to a **good old age. He died in Ephesus.**

To John Jesus was the "**light**" of the world.

John is the only person in the Bible who wrote: **God is LOVE.**



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

("Jesus@OT.com" in the children's book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

There are only a few references to the Old Testament in the 3 letters of John.

- = Compare 1 John 3: 5 with Leviticus 22: 20 - 23. (The sacrifice of a lam without defect or blemish.)
- = Compare 1 John 3: 12 - 13 with Genesis 4: 1 - 16. (Cain killed his brother Abel, after Abel's sacrifice was accepted.)
- = Compare 2 John 1: 5 - 6 with Leviticus 19: 18. (The love Christians should have for each other.)



## Our prayer for today ("Chats" in the children's book)

Lord Jesus, we are shocked when we look at our lifestyle. Do we lie? Do we swear? Do we laugh at dirty jokes? Do we watch movies in which Your name is used in vain? Please strengthen us so that sin does not become part of our lives. Please forgive us for the sins we still commit.

Amen



## Munchie fun

John wrote his letters to the church in Asia Minor. Today this region is called Turkey. We eat Turkish Delight sweets today to remind us that the places mentioned in the Bible are real places. Just like Jesus really lived on earth.



## Bible verse for the week ("You've got mail" in the children's book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

1 John 5: 13

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."



## My quiet time fun time

("Attachment" in the children's book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

As a Christian, you must show the love of God. You have to give some of your money and time. Sometimes it is easier to give your money than to give your time. Think of a charity project that you and your friends at church can participate in. Write down a couple of ideas of projects that are close to your heart.



## Remind children of the homework in their Odos book

(#JesusandI in the children's book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from John that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

- Sunday: 1 John 1: 5 - 6
- Monday: 1 John 2: 22
- Tuesday: 1 John 5: 11 - 12
- Wednesday: 2 John 1: 3
- Thursday: 3 John 1: 11



## Thought of the day ("Jesus@audio" in the children's book)

Is it true that you don't sin if you are a Christian? No, Christians can still sin and must ask Jesus to forgive their sins, but an ungodly lifestyle should not characterise their life. It is not who you ARE anymore, but sometimes you still make mistakes.

## Jude



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Super C sweets



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from Jude:

**From: Jude, the brother of Jesus / Paul's friend**

Jude was the second youngest brother of Jesus and had the same name as the disciple who betrayed Jesus (Judas and Jude are variants of the same name), but please don't confuse the two. During Jesus' time on earth Jude was not one of His followers and he did not really believe that Jesus was the Messiah. This changed completely after the resurrection and he and some of his other brothers became missionaries of Christ's message.

**To: My believing friends**

**CC: Every believer**

**Subject: A warning against false doctrine and a call to persevere in faith, hope and love.**

Dear friends

Like James, I was one of Jesus' earthly brothers. **NO, I am not Jude (Judas) Iscariot who betrayed Jesus! I wrote this letter to Messianic Jews (Jews who believe that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah).**

I had to write a very serious letter to my fellow believers. You know, many people have security measures to protect their homes, but they don't protect their faith and almost anyone can change their opinion about their beliefs. I hope you are not like that! Be on your guard for people with false beliefs. I told these churches how to recognise false teachers. It should be easy, they are people whose lives do not reflect the life of Jesus. You will remember that Jesus also said you can recognise false teachers by their fruit. These false teachers believe that because Jesus redeemed you and forgave your sins, you can live any way you want! This is just not true. God punished people in the past because of their wilful disobedience. To illustrate my point I use the examples of disobedient angels and the story of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Does anyone of you participate in sport? Just as in sport, it is not how you begin, but how you finish that matters. Those who persevere to the end, will inherit eternal life. I wanted these churches to finish well and not follow the example of the false teachers.

Remember, you are redeemed to do good, not evil.

Regards  
Jude

Extra content to share with the group:

The book of Jude is one of the shorter books of the Bible. Many Bible scholars are uncomfortable with the book of Jude because it refers to the Apocryphal books. The Apocryphal books are those books that are not included in the Protestant Bible and were written in the 400 years of silence before the birth of Jesus.

Jude was the second youngest brother of Jesus and had the same name as the disciple who betrayed Jesus (Judas and Jude are variants of the same name), but please don't confuse the two. During Jesus' time on earth Jude was not one of His followers and he did not really believe that Jesus was the Messiah. This changed completely after the resurrection and he and some of his other brothers became missionaries of Christ's message. How else?! They saw Jesus alive! Neither one of Jesus' brothers stressed their physical relationship with Him, but in their letters focused on their message.

The Jude letter often refers to 2 Peter and it is clear that Peter was Jude's inspiration.

The tone of the Jude letter is quite serious and the author uses strong language. For established churches there were two risks: They could be too strict and see every tiny little thing as a law or a sin or they could relax too much and accept everything.

Even in Biblical times people protected their families and possessions with walls. Today we are quite familiar with all kinds of security measures to protect everything that is precious to us. Nothing should be more precious to a Christian than the Word of God, and yet we listen to all sorts of teachings that cause us to waver in our faith. There are many people who twist the truth and "rob" your faith. It is true that what you believe influences your actions and behaviour. Jude uses the example of the Israelites who moved out of Egypt (they were filled with faith) but most did not enter the Promised Land (because of their unbelief). It is not those who begin well who inherit eternal life, but those who END well!

Jude emphasizes believers' faith, behaviour, character and talk. The stronger you are in these four qualities, the better are your chances to withstand false teachers' coaxing to stray from the right way. With God on your side, you will be strong.

Believers should withstand ungodly conduct and evil. Strengthen your faith through prayer and set your hope on Jesus, not on people. In the book of Jude we see that often the biggest threat to the church comes from inside the church, not outside.



### **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

Show the video clip of Jude on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*.

This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Jude? See who is first to find Jude in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book** ("Reminders" in the children's book)

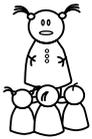
Many Bible scholars are uncomfortable with the book of Jude because **it refers to the Apocryphal books. The Apocryphal books are those books that are not included in the Protestant Bible and were written in the 400 years of silence before the birth of Jesus.**

Jude was the second youngest brother of Jesus and had the same name as **the disciple who betrayed Jesus (Judas and Jude are variants of the same name), but please don't confuse the one with the other.**

The letter of Jude often refers to **2 Peter and it is clear that Peter was an inspiration to Jude.**

There were two dangers for established churches: **They could be too strict and see every tiny little thing as a law or a sin or they could grow careless and allow anything.**

Jude emphasizes believers' **faith, behaviour, character and talk.**



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

("Jesus@OT.com" in the children's book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

- = Compare Jude v 5 with Numbers 14: 35. (The Israelites could not enter the Promised Land.)
- = Compare Jude v 7 with Genesis 19 (The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah).
- = Compare Jude v 9 with Zechariah 3: 2.
- = Compare Jude v 11 - 13 with Genesis 4: 1 - 16 (Cain), Numbers 16 (Korah) and Numbers 22 - 24 (Balaam).
- = Compare Jude v 14 - 15 with Genesis 5: 21 - 24 (Enoch).
- = Compare Jude v 14 with Daniel 7: 10 (Millions of angels with God).



## Our prayer for today ("Chats" in the children's book)

Lord Jesus, we want to be steadfast in our faith and live our lives according to Your truth proclaimed in the Bible. To do this we need to know Your Word, but we are often too lazy to study our Bibles. Fill us with strength and diligence, please.

Amen



## Munchie fun

It's not how you begin the race, but how you finish the race that matters. The life of faith is the same. We eat Super C's to give us energy for our life journey.



## Bible verse for the week ("You've got mail" in the children's book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Jude v 4

"They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord."



## My quiet time fun time

("Attachment" in the children's book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

Clever people can easily cause you to doubt the credibility of the Bible. Do you think the Bible can be reconciled with science? Why? Are there questions about the content of the Bible that you are too scared to ask? What are these questions? Write a few questions on a piece of paper. Maybe you can talk about them in the group.



## Remind children of the homework in their Odos book

(#JesusandI in the children's book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones.

After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Jude that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: Jude v 5

Monday: Jude v 10

Tuesday: Jude v 16

Wednesday: Jude v 17 - 18

Thursday: Jude v 20 - 21



## Thought of the day ("Jesus@audio" in the children's book)

How important is God's Word and obedience to it to you? Read your Bible and pray and hold fast to your faith. In your life there will be many things and people who will try to change your beliefs.

## Revelation



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

A slab chocolate



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's *Odos* book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

The following is the e-mail from John:

#### From: John

This John is not the same person as John the Baptist. This John (son of Zebedee) was a fisherman before he met Jesus. He not only caught fish, he also sold fish. He is sometimes called the "beloved disciple". John, Peter and James were part of Jesus' inner circle. John was exiled by the Roman government to the island of Patmos. While on the island the Lord Jesus Christ revealed Himself in a vision to John.

To: The seven churches in Asia Minor

CC: Believers throughout the ages

Subject: To exhort and encourage believers

Dear friends

I wrote this letter while I was in prison on the island of Patmos. I never dreamt that this book of Revelation would annoy so many people and lead to so many predictions about the future. I wrote this letter to the seven churches in the region of Asia Minor.

The book contains a vision God commanded me to write down. It was not supposed to scare people, but rather to comfort them. By that time all the other apostles who sat with me at Jesus' table were already killed for their faith. I wanted to share this message with these churches in Asia Minor, but also with all the churches who would come after them to encourage them to persevere in their faith.

It is easy to become discouraged when you are persecuted and in the next year these churches would suffer severe persecution. I think what Jesus wanted to say to these churches is, that even though the church goes through suffering, they must remember that the Lamb (Jesus) is on the throne and He reigns. More than that, Jesus is worthy to open the scrolls declaring the future and He will return.

My dear friends, don't lose heart when times are tough, but be prepared for the day of Jesus' return.

Your old friend  
John

Extra content to share with the group:

The word Revelation is translated in Greek as “Apokalypsis” meaning to “disclose” or “introduce”. What is known to God, but unknown to man, will now be disclosed in this book. Revelation is the disclosure of history from God’s point of view. Through Revelation God wanted to help us understand His plans by encouraging us to use our imagination. Sometimes when you use an image or picture to explain something to somebody, they say: “Oh, now I understand.” Revelation is more a book of hope and encouragement than a book of predictions about the future. Jesus will return to judge the ungodly and to exalt the righteous.

We must remember that Revelation was written for simple people living in Biblical times, but they were all believers and disciples of Jesus. Many of the images used may be quite strange to us today. John wrote Revelations to the members of seven churches. These people did not have a lot of learning, as we know learning in the West today. None of them were very important or influential, or of the nobility or wealthy. Most of the members were non-Jewish and from a mixed heritage, they lived in the Roman provinces, spoke Greek, read Jewish Scriptures and had the Christian faith in common.

Revelation is probably the one book in the Bible nobody feels neutral about. Some Christians do not even want to read it, others can’t stop reading it. Calvin left it out completely from his Bible, and Luther could not relate with it. By the 5th century Revelation was seen as part of the Bible as we know it today.

John called the book of Revelation “prophetic”. John was therefore an apostle as well as a prophet. Revelation is the only prophetic book in the New Testament. At this time John was in prison, not because of any crime he had committed but because of his faith. He is a political prisoner on the island of Patmos. He was the only one of the twelve apostles that was still alive, all the others already died as martyrs because of their love and faith in Jesus. John is the writer or secretary of the prophecy, but God Himself is actually the author of the letter, because John only wrote what he saw and heard. Jesus gave His revelation to John in visions and John now delivers this message to his readers in symbolic language. We can see Revelation as a call to remain faithful until the end, like the apostles who lost their lives because of their faith.

This book is a lot different from the other writings of John (who wrote the gospel and 3 letters). John “saw” and “heard” the events in this book in visions and dreams and wrote it down. It is almost like watching a movie and having someone tell you “Write down everything that happened.”

The purpose of Revelation is not to provide a point by point breakdown of future events, but rather to prepare people for these events, whatever they may be. Revelation tells us something about the present time, but also predicts something of the future. Revelation also focuses more on WHAT will happen than on WHEN it will happen. The purpose of the book is not to transform all of us into forecasters of the future, but to encourage us to be prepared for the worst at any time. There is a call to persevere in our faith until the end, but also a call to overcome sin. Those of us who persevere in our faith will receive a reward, says Revelation. First there are positive outcomes (authority, to eat of the tree of life, no pain, to sit with Jesus on His throne, etc.) and secondly we will have eternal life and will be with Jesus forever. You will behold God and stand before Him without any shame. Those people who continue in their unbelief will receive no reward and hell (lake of fire) will be their end.

In the first few chapters of the Bible in Genesis the story is told of how the devil gained a foothold on earth (through Adam and Eve’s sin) and in the final chapters of the Bible in Revelation it is told how the devil is completely vanquished when Jesus returns. God is the beginning and the end of the world.



### **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

Show the video clip of Revelation on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Revelation? See who is first to find Revelation in their Bible.



## Interesting facts about the Bible book (“Reminders” in the children’s book)

The name Revelation is translated in Greek as “Apokalypsis” meaning “to disclose” or “to introduce”.

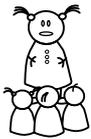
Revelation is a **book of hope and encouragement** rather than predictions of the future.

John wrote Revelation to: **the members of the seven churches. Most of the members were non-Jewish and lived in the Roman provinces, spoke Greek, read Jewish Scriptures and had the Christian faith in common.**

John called the book of Revelation “**prophetic**”. John was therefore an **apostle and a prophet**.

John was **in prison, not because of any crime he committed but because of his faith. He was a political prisoner on the island of Patmos.**

Jesus gave His revelation to John **in visions and John proclaimed this message to his readers in symbolic language.**



## Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?

(“**Jesus@OT.com**” in the children’s book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

- = Compare Revelation 1: 8 with Isaiah 44: 6. (God is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega.)
- = Compare Revelation 1: 13 with Daniel 7: 13 – 14. (Jesus is the Son of man.)
- = Compare Revelation 1: 16 with Isaiah 49: 2. (The judgement of Jesus is like a sword.)
- = Compare Revelation 2: 6 with Numbers 31: 15 – 16. (Balaam was a prophet.)
- = Compare Revelation 2: 7 with Genesis 2: 9 (The trees in the garden of Eden.)
- = Compare Revelation 2: 14 – 16 with Numbers 22 – 24 (The story of Balaam and king Balak).
- = Compare Revelation 2: 17 with Exodus 16: 14 – 18. (Manna from heaven provides in the needs of the Israelites.)
- = Compare Revelation 2: 26 – 27 with Psalm 2: 8 and Isaiah 30: 14 and Jeremiah 19: 11. (God’s enemies will be broken like pottery.)
- = Compare Revelation 4: 5 with Exodus 19: 16 and Psalm 77: 18. (Thunder and lightning when God reveals His will.)
- = Compare Revelation 5: 6 with 1 Kings 22: 11 and Zechariah 1: 18. (The horns are a symbol of power and might.)
- = Compare Revelation 5: 6 with Zechariah 4: 2 – 10 (The eyes as a symbol of the 7 lamps and one Spirit and His omniscience).
- = Compare Revelation 5: 11 with Daniel 6: 23. (Angels protect the children of God.)
- = Compare Revelation 5: 11 met Genesis 16: 7. (Angels encourage people.)
- = Compare Revelation 5: 11 with Exodus 14: 19. (Angels provides guidance.)
- = Compare Revelation 5: 11 with 2 Samuel 24: 16 (Angels punish.)
- = Compare Revelation 6: 2 with Zechariah 6: 1 – 8 (The image of the four horses).
- = Compare Revelation 7: 14 with Isaiah 1: 18. (You are saved through faith.)
- = Compare Revelation 8: 3 with Exodus 30: 7 – 9. (Frankincense is a symbol of the prayers of believers.)
- = Compare Revelation 8: 13 with Habakkuk 1: 8 (An eagle as a symbol of speed and destruction).



## Our prayer for today (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, we trust You with our lives. Thank you that we know the victory has been won when Jesus died on the cross and rose again. We must trust You and remain faithful until Your return, because we want to live with You forever. We will praise You every day in heaven.

Amen



## Munchie fun

Today we share a slab of chocolate to remind us of the fact that we are part of something bigger – God’s kingdom. The teacher breaks off a small piece for each child.



## Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Revelation 1: 3

“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.”



## My quiet time fun time

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

Have a look on the internet how many people through the years have made predictions about the end of the world. How many of these forecasters were right?



## Remind children of the homework in their Odos book

(#JesusandI in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Revelation that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

- Sunday: Revelation 1: 7
- Monday: Revelation 1: 8
- Tuesday: Revelation 1: 17 - 18
- Wednesday: Revelation 2: 19
- Thursday: Revelation 3: 3



## Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)

Are the warnings in Revelation also applicable to me? You must believe that God is in control. Everyone who believes in Him will be saved.



## Revelation



### Prepared reading for the teacher

Watch the video clip of the Bible book on the *Read Scripture* app or on YouTube at *The Bible Project*.



### Resources for the teacher during presentation of the lesson

Anything for a party.



### Lesson content – who and what?

Explain the Bible book to the group as if the author wrote a personal e-mail to the class. The **bold** sentences in your preparation material are the parts that are also included in the child's Odos book. The rest is additional content that can be shared with the group as the lesson progresses.

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**From: John**

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**To: The seven churches in Asia Minor**

**CC: Believers throughout the ages**

**Subject: To exhort and encourage believers**

Dear friends

Did you know you are living in the end times? The end time began when Jesus ascended to heaven, so please don't think I am confused or that I am trying to predict the future! Jesus will return, of that I am certain!

There are a couple of things you have to keep in mind when reading my letter. Firstly, I use many images that were well-known to my first readers, the seven churches, but may seem strange to you. I want to explain some of these images, so that you will not be afraid to read my letter. My letter is actually just another way of proclaiming the Gospel and will fill you with hope if you understand it correctly.

1. You must understand that I am describing two different places. My letter explains what is happening in heaven and then shows what will happen on earth.
2. I want my readers to know that the Lamb, Jesus, is in heaven and sits at the right hand of God. He is also the only one who is worthy to open the scrolls. These scrolls are just another way of saying that Jesus holds the future in His hands. Many of the things I describe seem quite awful, but Jesus wants us to know that He is on the throne and the battle has been won, even though it does not always look that way here on earth.

3. The dragon (an image of the devil) is vanquished by the Lamb and thrown out of heaven. Now there is no-one to accuse us in heaven, only the Lamb who intercedes for us. The devil knows he has little time, so he tries everything in his power to create difficulties for us. However, he can do nothing about the fact that Jesus has saved us and even if we die, we will be with Jesus forever. And yes, we can overcome the devil by the blood of Jesus and by telling people what Jesus has done for us, and by not loving our lives too much.
4. This vision Jesus gave me contains many numbers. These numbers are symbolic. The 144 000 people who are sealed, points to the perfect number of people who will be in heaven. Remember there were twelve tribes of Israel in the Old Testament and 12 disciples in the New Testament. Twelve times twelve equals... That's right, 144. The 1 000 with which 144 has to be multiplied to get to 144 000, is the perfect number or the "complete" number. We find this number again later in my book when it points to the period of peace (Millennium). Once again this doesn't point to an actual number of years, but rather the perfect number of years before Jesus will return. During this time the devil will be bound so that the non-Jews can come to God and be saved by their faith in Jesus.

(There are three different points of view about the Millennium (1 000 years of peace), theologians speak of a pre-millennium, a post-millennium and an a-millennium point of view. The one explained above is the a-millennial viewpoint. If you are unsure of your church's interpretation of the Millennium please ask your pastor/minister or church leader. Fortunately this issue is not central to our understanding of the gospel.)

5. One last thing - I want you to look forward to heaven. It will be a wonderful place where we will always be with Jesus. I knew these churches, especially Philadelphia and Pergamum, would go through difficult times. It would be a wonderful prospect to them to know that they will be with Jesus one day, the One for whom they and their children would die.

Please read this book of mine, even if you don't understand everything the first time. I will even teach you a few Latin words like Alpha and Omega! I am already an old man and cannot wait to be with Jesus in heaven. In heaven I will praise His name with the angels every day. I hope you also look forward to that day!

With love and be careful!

For the last time, your friend  
John

Extra content to share with the group:

Revelation is about the present as well as the future. It gives hope to believers and the knowledge that Christ will triumph over evil.

The main theme of Revelation is: JESUS WILL RETURN! The scene in Revelation is constantly changing between events in heaven and events on earth and this can be very confusing. Know that one of the main themes of Revelation is to exalt Jesus. Many of the terms used to describe Jesus are only found in Revelation. Think of "Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, the lion of Judah, Holy and Faithful, King of kings, the bright Morning Star" and many more. Many well-known composers were inspired by the book of Revelation's praise and worship. We all know Händel's Messiah and the Battle Hymn of the Republic, both are based on Revelation.

To make it easier to understand, Revelation uses 5 types of images:

- Obvious comparisons for example the snake, representing the devil and the lake of fire, representing hell.
- Other images are explained in the book: the stars are angels, the lampstands are churches, the seals, trumpets and bowls are disasters and the frankincense is prayers.
- Some images refer back to the Old Testament and have the same meaning, like the tree of life and the morning star.

- Some images are new and very strange. Fortunately there are not many of them, for example the white stone. Bible scholars interpret their meaning, such as purity or a token of approval.
- Numbers are also used as symbols. Seven is used in the Bible as the perfect number, twelve signifies the people of God, either the twelve tribes or the disciples. If 24 is used it signifies the old with the new. 1000 is the biggest number, 6 is the imperfect number – you could not reach 7.

Chapter 1 – 3: The theme is the church on earth. God Himself is the author of the letter, John is only the scribe (secretary).

Chapter 4 – 5: God reigns in His heavenly kingdom. The Creator is continually praised by all He has created.

Chapter 6 – 16: Satan is on the loose! Things on earth will grow worse before they get better. It is difficult for us to determine: must these things still happen, have they happened already or are they happening at the moment? In these chapters there is a lot of symbolism: the seals, trumpets and bowls (manmade disasters such as war and pollution, natural disasters such as earthquakes and then disasters that are similar to the plagues of Egypt). These symbols concentrate on what will happen on earth. The human response to these disasters is one of anger and reproach. They blame God rather than themselves and don't repent and ask for forgiveness. This is typical of people. When things get tough, we turn our backs on God rather than turning towards Him.

Chapter 7: The two groups of people. We learn that there are two groups of people. A small group of Jews that are protected on earth and a big group of Christians already in heaven.

Chapter 10 – 11. The two witnesses. John is the first witness, but towards the end there will be two witnesses. The two witnesses are able to perform miracles, like stopping the rain.

Chapter 12 – 14: The beasts. One is Satan and the other two are human beings (one political and one religious). These three will attempt to rule as a unit in an attempt to simulate the Holy Trinity.

Chapter 17 – 18: Man on earth. The difficulties are almost at an end. It is the time of the seventh earthquake. We read more about two female figures, the prostitute and the bride. The two sins that are highlighted are pride and greed or covetousness. Both of these sins pertain to a love of money.

Chapter 19 – 20: Christ on earth. The world as we know it, comes to an end and a new world dawns. God entrusts the judgement of the world to His Son, Jesus. Jesus came to earth the first time to save the lost, but now He comes to punish sin.

Chapter 21 – 22: Heaven on earth. The new heaven and the new earth are revealed.

Read Revelation with a firm faith, an open mind and a soft heart and the treasures of Revelation will be opened to you.



### **Video clip** (Use in class if you have access to the necessary equipment)

Show the video clip of Revelation on the *Read Scripture* app or on Youtube at *The Bible Project*. This gives a summary of the Bible book using visual illustrations.



### **Bookcase in the Odos book**

Look at our Odos bookcase in front of the Odos book. Where do we find Revelation? See who is first to find Revelation in their Bible.



### **Interesting facts about the Bible book** (“Reminders” in the children’s book)

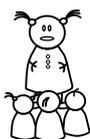
The main theme of Revelation is: **JESUS WILL RETURN.**

Many of the names used to describe Jesus are only found in Revelation. For example “**Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, the lion of Judah, Holy and Faithful, King of kings, the bright Morning Star.**”

What do we know of the symbolism of the numbers used in Revelation? **Numbers are also used symbolically. For example seven is the perfect number, twelve is the people of God either the twelve tribes or the disciples. If 24 is used it signifies the old together with the new. 1000 is the biggest number, 6 is the imperfect number – you could not reach 7.**

There are many comparisons and images in Revelation. Name a few. **The snake, representing the devil and the lake of fire, representing hell. The stars are angels, the lampstands are churches, the seals, trumpets and bowls are disasters and the frankincense is prayers.**

Revelation ends when the new heaven and the new earth are revealed.



## **Does the New Testament refer to the Old Testament?**

(“Jesus@OT.com” in the children’s book)

Select a few of the following verses. Let the children find and read both references in their Bibles to see how wonderful the references to the Old Testament are.

- = Compare Revelation 9: 3 with Joel 2: 1 – 10 (An army of locusts as precursor of the day of the Lord).
- = Compare Revelation 9: 13 with Exodus 27: 2. (The four corners of the altar were known as the “horns” of the altar.)
- = Compare Revelation 10: 2 with Ezekiel 3: 1 (A scroll with judgements against Israel).
- = Compare Revelation 11: 3 with Daniel 12: 11 (Troubles lasting 3 and a half years).
- = Compare Revelation 11: 3 with Malachi 4: 5 (Elijah’s return before the last judgement).
- = Compare Revelation 11: 4 – 6 with Exodus 7 – 11 (The plagues of Egypt).
- = Compare Revelation 11: 6 with 1 Kings 17. (Elijah prays for rain.)
- = Compare Revelation 11: 19 with Exodus 37: 1. (The ark of the covenant was precious to the Israelites.)
- = Compare Revelation 12: 7 with Daniel 12: 1 (The angel Michael).
- = Compare Revelation 12: 10 with Job 1: 7. (Satan had access to the Lord, but this would change now.)
- = Compare Revelation 14: 19 with Isaiah 63: 3 – 6 (The symbol of the winepress).
- = Compare Revelation 15: 3 – 4 with Exodus 15: 1 – 18 (The victory song).
- = Compare Revelation 16: 16 with Judges 4 – 5. (The battlefield of Megiddo, or Armageddon, was a well-known battlefield.)
- = Compare Revelation 19: 7 with Hosea 2 (The image of a wedding).
- = Compare Revelation 19: 9 – 10 with Isaiah 25: 6 – 8 (The wedding supper).
- = Compare Revelation 21: 1 with Isaiah 65: 17 (A new earth).
- = Compare Revelation 21: 6 with Genesis 2: 1 – 3 (The realisation of the creation plan).
- = Compare Revelation 21: 15 – 17 with 1 Kings 6: 20 (The new Jerusalem).
- = Compare Revelation 21: 18 – 21 with Exodus 28: 15 – 21 (The precious stones, the number 12 and the perfect communion with Christ).
- = Compare Revelation 22: 2 with Genesis 2: 9 (The tree of life in the garden of Eden).
- = Compare Revelation 22: 2 with Ezekiel 47: 12. (Living water giving strength and healing.)
- = Compare Revelation 22: 14 with Genesis 3: 22 – 24. (Because of their sin, Adam and Eve were not allowed to get near the tree of life.)
- = Compare Revelation 22: 16 with Isaiah 11: 1 – 5. (Jesus was a descendant of David.)



## **Our prayer for today** (“Chats” in the children’s book)

Lord Jesus, why do people always frighten us with the book Revelation? We know for certain that Jesus died, rose again and will return to earth. We want to be ready for that day. Please strengthen our faith.

Amen



## Munchie fun

Today is our last lesson for the year and we are going to have a party. We want to celebrate our faith and tell everybody that we will be in heaven with Jesus one day.



## Bible verse for the week (“You’ve got mail” in the children’s book)

Let the children underline this verse in their Bibles.

Revelation 3: 15 - 16

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”



## My quiet time fun time

(“Attachment” in the children’s book, but can be used as a group activity in class)

Today, in closing, share a testimony with the class. How did you meet the Lord Jesus? Have you ever experienced the hand of God in your life? What do you think about eternal life? What will it be like?



## Remind children of the homework in their Odos book

(#JesusandI in the children’s book)

Explain to the group that they must first download the *QR Scanner* app on their cell phones. After that they can scan the barcode in their book to watch the video clip of the Bible book.

These are the Bible verses from Revelation that we want the children to read in their quiet time from Sunday to Thursday this week.

Sunday: Revelation 3: 20

Monday: Revelation 5: 13

Tuesday: Revelation 11: 15

Wednesday: Revelation 14: 6 - 7

Thursday: Revelation 21: 1 - 2



## Thought of the day (“Jesus@audio” in the children’s book)

Why do people turn their back on God or on their faith? Is it worthwhile to turn your back on God? What do you think?



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**The Odos Series is a children's program that accompanies children (and their parents) through the Bible in a fun way.**

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Registration number 2012/017231/07

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### **Printed and bound by**

Business Print, Pretoria, South Africa

First edition 2019