

**English Corner Program 2014**

***for internationals living in English speaking countries***

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TEACHNG ENGLISH THROUGH PARABLES AND DISCUSSION

Teacher’s Guide

*8th edition*



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Please feel free to photocopy and change/adapt the material to suit your teaching context.

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Introduction

*How we began*

I

t was Easter of 1999 and my husband and I were studying at the Queensland Baptist College. As part of our cross-cultural studies we were encouraged to think about developing a cross-cultural ministry. We had a good friend Hong Mo from Korea who was working part-time as a chaplain to a language school in Australia. He lamented that many students came to Australia expecting to meet Australians and learn more about Australian culture and English. The reality is that they often only meet other international students and find it very difficult to make contact with Australians.

Around that same time I met an international student waiting outside the City Library. I started a conversation with her. After a while, I asked her if she had met many Australians. She looked at me with tears in her eyes and said: “I have been here for two years studying at university and you are the first Australian to begin a conversation with me.” At that moment the verse came to mind: “I am a stranger will you welcome me?”

We decided to invite Hong Mo’s Korean friends together with our friends from Bible College and hold an Easter BBQ. Many students turned up. We organised other activities to introduce Australian culture. Students enjoyed mixing and meeting other Australians. Knowing we studied at Bible College, some students approached us to teach them English through the Bible. They had seen the way we lived our Christian lives and wanted to know more. A couple preparing to be missionaries overseas joined us and we started doing English Bible studies.

This proved to be quite a challenge as we realised the Bible stories contained new vocabulary, Jewish and Greek culture and a Christian/Jewish worldview. So we started choosing parables and looked at the main idea from each parable. We then provided an interactive warm-up before the lesson to introduce the main idea and began with Hot Topics to connect the parable to the students’ own culture. Students then read/acted out the parable, checked for new vocabulary, cultural information and then answered discussion questions.

Over the past 10 years we have met hundreds of international students. Many of them keep in contact and have become close friends. We have held English Corner reunions in Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea and China. Students have returned to their countries and have begun their own English Corner groups.

Through listening to their stories, their reasons for learning English, their hunger to know more about the meaning of life and how they became Christians, God has taught us many things.

We would like to share these with you. Many people have helped us along the way and we thank them for their wisdom, love and support. We welcome you to use the material, change and adapt it to suit your ministry situation.

May God bless you in your work with international students. It is a wonderful rich life not only meeting people from other cultures but also getting to know them deeply.

**Update:** We have now moved to Thailand and working on adapting the material to the ASEAN context.

*Kim and Ashley Hood*  
February 2014

Chapter

1

The Principles Behind English Corner

**1. God is Drawing People to Himself**

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Hen we pray for English Corner, we ask God to bring us the teachers and students He wants.

An important principle by which we operate is that God is in control. He is the one drawing students towards him and bringing open students to English Corner. We are continually amazed at how both teachers and students come to English Corner. When we have 100 students turn up – we have just the right amount of teachers. When there are 40, again we have a good ratio of students to teachers.

We never push students and hope to be open and respectful to students from other religions. We understand that God is the one who makes the seed of the gospel grow. We need to provide the right setting, be imitators of Christ and then let God’s Spirit do the rest.

We work as a team, not only in English Corner but also with churches and other English ministries. When we have a baptism or a good-bye party we always see the other ‘workers’ in the field who have watered and tended the seed in that student’s life.

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.  
1 Corinthians 3:5-9 *(CEV)*

**2. Authentic Christianity**

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E endeavour to reflect an authentic Christianity to the students. This means being open about our Christian lives. When we are asked we are ready to “give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience…” 1Peter 3:15.

We find that students are always watching. They watch how you treat your family, your friends, and people from other cultures, the poor, the waitress, the bus driver. They are seeing if your life is different. When they see Christ’s light in you they want to know more. We have rarely sat down and shared directly with a student but some students have come up to us and said they want to know more about Jesus or that they have begun to pray or want to go to church. God is working in their lives without our even knowing it. Oh the mystery and wonder of God in people’s lives!

This takes the pressure off us both. We can sit down together as fellow sojourners, wanting to explore this mysterious life and its meaning. We are honest with our questions and our struggles. We have nothing to hide.

**3. Relational**

T

He main reason students continue to come to English Corner and keep in contact after they return home is the relationships they have built with each other and the teachers. We create a family atmosphere where students are welcomed regardless of age, background or education. That goes for our teachers as well. We are a mixed bunch of people.

We endeavour to have students to our places for dinner and some of us also live with students. A number of us have made conscious decisions to rent houses with enough rooms to have a share house situation. In these houses community is created through house meetings, social outings, involvement in our church and daily lives. Events like Easter films and Christmas parties are held at our homes, as many students may never visit an Australian home.

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2 *(CEV)*

**4. Church**

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ntroducing students to an ‘international friendly’ church is an important part of an English Corner ministry. It is at church they meet other Christians. They will need to be ‘walked through’ the various rituals and language of church. You may even want to sit next to them and draw stick figures to help explain the sermon. If you know the sermon topic or reading beforehand you can give out a translation of the passage in his or her own language. Church can be a very inclusive and welcoming place or an alienating and confusing experience for the new church attendee. Inviting students to your church needs prayer and preparation. Helping the people in the congregation mix with the students and to build relationships is a very important witness to the international student.

Students who have had a positive experience of church are more likely to search out a church when they return home. This is a very important part of their continuing spiritual development and growth.

Chapter

2

How to Use English Corner Material

English Corner material has been developed with the following considerations in mind:

1. **That the majority of students attending English Corner do not come from a Christian background and have very little background information on the Bible.**

***Implication:*** Assume nothing! Students even ask *what* is Jesus not *who* is Jesus. Any Bible story is steeped in cultural knowledge, a Jewish worldview and history. The cultural context of the story needs to be explored and compared to the student’s own culture as well as Australian culture. Any biblical terms like: sin, prophecy, Pharisee, Sadducees, disciple, repentance, for example, need to be explained. They are not common English words students come across in their language classes.

1. **Most of the ESL (English as a Second Language) students involved in English Corner come from an Asian background – predominately South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, China and Thailand.**

***Implication:*** Students may come from a Buddhist, Confucius or Shinto worldview. Ancestral worship is very important. Ceremonies and rituals around funerals, death anniversaries involve all family members. Confucian ethics on respect for elders blend with Buddhist customs to make it very important that all the family is involved in the family worship. This is especially true for the eldest son, whose duty it will be to carry on the worship of the ancestors when he is head of the family.

Some families have many good luck charms and rituals to drive away bad spirits. Family members and friends often give the departing students paper with special words inscribed or other charms to keep them safe whilst they are away overseas.

Helping students examine their cultural, family and personal worldviews that influence their life is an important process in accepting Christ’s worldview.

1. **Students learning English tend to be on a student visa or working holiday visa lasting around 12 months. Most students stay in the one place for around 6 months and then go travelling.**

***Implication:*** You may not have your student for long! Often they get part-time work, move to another capital city, and go travelling. So each lesson needs to stand-alone. A series of lessons leading up to Christmas or Easter is possible if reviews are made before the beginning of each lesson.

1. **Students initially come to Australia to learn English, experience a new culture and have an adventure.**

***Implication:*** In English Corner our lessons have the following aims:

* 1. Develop relationships between students and between teachers and students.
  2. Provide a comfortable, supportive environment for students to practice their English. We encourage students to “Please Make Mistakes!”
  3. Design the lessons so there is maximum student involvement. Students are encouraged to read out the questions, discuss in pairs, threes or small groups, and act out a story. By the end of the lesson hopefully the students have done 80% of the talking, reading, asking and answering the questions. This is not your typical Bible study.
  4. Provide discussion topics, parables, and Bible stories for students to learn not only English but learn about the meaning of life, to introduce them to authentic Christianity and the Bible.
  5. Offer hospitality and parties that explain important festivals – Christmas, Easter, Australia Day, and Anzac Day, World Cup soccer etc.
  6. Be an information hub to give out free events information, explaining transport, finding work, accommodation, any good places to visit or cheap restaurants and movies. Information that students need but find very hard to access.

Chapter

3

The Lessons

There are three main types of lessons used in English Corner. They are parables, learning English through discussion, and an introductory series to Jesus. Throughout the year, we alternate between doing a series on parables then moving into learning English through discussion and then, depending on the time of year, a series on Jesus leading up to Easter or Christmas. Interspersed throughout these series are one-off stories linked to public holidays like New Years Day, Australia Day, Anzac Day, NAIDOC week (National Australian Indigenous Day of Celebration) or Sorry Day (Day of Healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders). Included in this manual are the parable lessons, the many meanings of lessons, the Jesus series, Christmas and the Easter lessons. You will need to change adapt to suit your teaching context.

These lessons will now be explained and presented.

Parables

Jesus used parables throughout his ministry. He explained to his disciples why he spoke in parables: “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, “though seeing, they may not see; though hearing they may not understand.’” Luke 8: 9-10 *(CEV).*

The use of parables will evoke the interest of those who have any spiritual insight and shield the truth from those who are not yet spiritually open. We have seen this so many times when using parables in our lessons. There will always be a couple of students in each small group who suddenly grasp the meaning of a parable with an ‘ah ah’ experience. Their eyes have been opened and the truth revealed. What may have taken a theological student hours of debate and discussion to understand, these non-Christian students just know. Other students in the group see the parable as an interesting story but that is where it stops.

Bill Perry in his Bible Study Series, ‘Crossing Over with Parables’ provides a helpful summary of using parables with international students. He suggests to:

1. **Develop the context of the parable**

To understand the true radical nature of the meaning of a parable, the reader needs to be aware of the culture that informs the text. Questions such as Who? What? Where? When? and Why? are important in developing the context of the parable and for checking for understanding of the students.

1. **Look for the main point**

There is usually one major theme contained in a parable. There will be other important secondary (no less important) issues but it is helpful to draw out the major theme and design your lesson around that theme.

1. **Parables press the listener to respond**

This is why parables are often an engaging evangelistic tool. Parables demand a radical change in the listener’s worldview or approach to God, other people and life in general. Parables address these issues in a relational, friendly, indirect way that sometimes surprises the audience and clearly confronts them with a choice.

# The Parable Lesson Format

Each lesson has the following format:

**1.** **Warm-Ups**

* Whole group: An activity that introduces the topic and students to each other.

**2. Small Groups**

* Break into smaller groups according to English proficiency levels, beginner to advanced (students usually self select their English level).
* Assign a teacher/facilitator to each group.

**3. The Lesson:**

**Hot Topics**

* Introduce the hot topics. These relate the lesson to the students’ culture or personal experiences.

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**The Parable**

* Provide students with many opportunities to speak. Vary the format. Students may discuss questions in pairs or threes. They may act out the Bible stories. Students can take turns facilitating the discussion.

4. **The Finish**

* Whole group: Brief comment about the lesson, interview students leaving and announcements – free events etc.

# English Corner Syllabus 2014

These lessons may change – check weekly English Corner Mail Out – to be used as a guide only

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **January** | | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Text** | **Theme** | **Warm-Up/Introduction** |
| 21 /1 | Australia Day | No Text | Introducing the idea that Australia is not a Christian country | Naming the icons in the picture hand out. |
| 28/1 | Chinese New Year | John 11:25-26 | Ancestor Worship/Respect | You can give out Fortune Cookies to students to eat and read. Ask what would they like to happen in 2013? |
| **Events** | | | | |
| * Invite Students to Australia Day Activities * **Chinese New Year** – after English Corner you can head down to China Town to see the Dragon dance, crackers and get a cheap meal | | | | |

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**AUSTRALIA DAY**

**Australia Day is a public holiday all around Australia. Today our discussion topic is on Australia!**

**HOT TOPICS**

**About Australia Quiz…**

**1. If someone asks you what you are doing this 'arvo'. They want to know what you are doing:**   
a. during the holidays  
b. at lunch time   
c. this afternoon

**2. If someone offers you 'a cuppa', they are offering you:**   
a. a cupboard   
b. an Australian cake   
c. a cup of tea

**3. If someone tells you to 'ava good weekend', they mean:**   
a. be careful because bad weather is forecast   
b. drive carefully  
c. have a good weekend

**4 .**Look at the Aussie Icons (famous things of Australia) and try and name each one.

**5. About your country…**

When is your country’s national day? Why is it your national day? How do you celebrate your country’s national day?

**Australia Day Discussion**

1. Australia Day is a day when we celebrate the nation of Australia. It is a day of both celebration and remembering. We remember the arrival of the British in 1788, and we also remember the Aboriginals who have lived in Australia for 1000’s of years. For Aboriginal people they call January 26 Invasion Day. What history do you know about Australia? *In threes discuss*
2. Most Australia Day activities focus on what it means to be Australian. As an international visitor to Australia – How would you describe Australians and the nation of Australia? *In pairs*.
3. How are Australians and the nation of Australia different from your country? *In different pairs*
4. What are some common important beliefs and activities that Australians share? *Whole group*.
5. What are the main religions in Australia? Do you think Australia is a ‘Christian country”? Why or why not? *Whole group.*
6. What is one thing from Australia you will bring back to your country?

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**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**Festivals – Happy New Year!**

**Happy New Year! For countries that follow the Lunar calendar – Friday, January 31st is Lunar New Year day or Seol Nal for Koreans.**

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Will you do anything special for Chinese New Year ?
2. If you celebrate Chinese New Year, what would you normally do in your country?
3. In your group, discuss the meaning of the New Year festival. For example: Do you know why Chinese people have a Lion Dance/Dragon dance and firecrackers?
4. At this time, many families meet together and give food for their ancestors. Why do they do this? What do some people think might happen if they don’t worship their ancestors?
5. In Australia, we have no special ceremony for our ancestors. If somebody dies, we may visit the gravesite to remember them but not to give them anything or worship them. This probably comes from our Western culture, which has been influenced by Christian belief.

Christians believe that when you die, you either go to heaven to be with God or hell to be with the Devil. Once you have died you cannot influence or bring good or bad luck to the people living. Only God or the Devil can do that.

1. In groups of three discuss: What do you think happens to you after you die? Why?

In the Bible –, Jesus said: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who **believes in me** will **live**, even though he **dies;** and whoever **lives** and **believes in me** will **never die**.” *John 11:25-26*

1. In pairs discuss: What you think Jesus was talking about?

**Vocabulary**

**Ancestors:** relative or family who lived a long time ago.

**Worship:** to show respect by saying prayers or doing religious ceremonies.

**Gravesite:** a place in the ground where somebody is buried.

**Resurrection:** come alive again.

**Reincarnation:** the belief that a dead person’s spirit returns in another body – insect, animal, rich person…

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|  |  |  |  |  |
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| **February** | | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Text** | **Theme** | **Warm-Up/Introduction** |
| 4/2 | Alone or Lonely? | Ps 139: 9-10 | God is with us | Divide the room up into North, South, East and West. Get students to sit in the areas they come from. Get them to meet their neighbours.  What activities or things are there to do in these parts of the city? E.g cheap movie theatres, outlet shopping, parks, free events etc. |
| 11/2 | Love – Valentine’s Day | 1 Cor 13:4-8 | The true meaning of love | Good to cover around St Valentine’s Day. 'Perfect Match Game' Male students sit on one side, female students on the other. Male students close their eyes. Female students place one of their shoes in the middle of the room. Male students open their eyes and select one shoe and find the owner. They then describe the owner’s personality by the type of shoe they found. For example sandshoe – sporty, athletic. If more females than males - males pick up more than one shoe! Or more males then females – males work with a partner. |  |
| 18/2 | Community | Lk: 6:27-29, 32. | Through God we can love all people | Group students into the types of accommodation they live in: share house, home stay, alone, other. …Students can then talk about their living situations. |  |
| 25/2 | Leadership | Luke 22:24-27 | Servant Leadership | The leader/teacher of the class can offer students drinks, serving them as part of the warm up. | |
| **Events** | | | | | |
| * **Valentine’s Day Friendship cruise and dessert** – after English Corner students get a cheap meal, head on to the City Cat and cruise to Bulimba for coffee and dessert | | | | | |

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**ALONE or LONELY?**

**alone:** adj,adv**.** Without other people. *She lives alone*. *I like being alone*.

**lonely**: adj. Unhappy because you are not with other people.

**Usage**

***alone or lonely?***

Alone means without other people. If you feel **sad** because you are alone, you are **lonely.**

*Sometimes I like to be* ***alone*** *to think.*

*She has been very* ***lonely*** *since she came to Australia.*

**HOT TOPICS**

*(Choose one topic to lead a discussion on).*

1. What is the difference between being alone and being lonely?
2. Did you come to Australia alone? How did it feel? What did your family or friends think of you coming alone? When have you felt lonely in Australia?
3. If someone was feeling lonely in Australia what advice would you give them:

You could…….

Why don’t you…..

Have you thought of …………..

1. Where do you like to go to be alone?
2. Have you ever been to the movies alone or eaten at a restaurant alone? Why or why not? How did it feel?
3. Why are we sometimes afraid of being alone?
4. Do you agree with the following statement:

“No man is an island”

Everyone experiences loneliness. You might have felt it as a child when your classmates laughed at you because you were the last one chosen for a team. You might be feeling it now being away from your family and friends. Listening to native speakers talking and not being able to join in the conversation because you can’t understand can leave you feeling lonely. Loneliness is a universal human experience. Everyone at some stage in his or her life has felt lonely. How we live with loneliness is important. Many bad habits, addictions, stress headaches, over eating or under eating, can be caused from loneliness.

Many people in history, who have faced great suffering, have experienced loneliness. How they managed their loneliness was the way they survived. One famous Christian in World War II was a prisoner in a German concentration camp. Her belief in God kept her from giving up all hope. She writes, “I could face each day because I knew I wasn’t alone. God was with me in every difficult situation. To know I was not alone kept me alive. I can face anything because God is with me, comforting me, loving me, giving me strength.”

***What helps you when you are feeling lonely?***

A person from the Bible wrote about God:

*“Suppose I had wings like the dawning day*

*and flew across the ocean.*

*Even then your powerful arm*

*would guide and protect me.”*

*Psalm 139:9-10.*

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**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**The many meanings of LOVE**

**Friends/Family**: to like a friend or a person in your family very much. *He loves his kids*.

**Enjoy**: to enjoy something very much or have a strong interest in something. *I love kimchi. I love football.*

**Romance/Sex**: to like someone very much and have romantic or sexual feelings for them. *She loves her husband very much*.

**Hot Topics**

1. February 14th is Valentine’s Day. Do you have Valentine’s Day in your country? What do guys/girls usually give each other?

2. In English the one word love, means so many different things. I love you, I love my shoes…..In your country do you have one word for love? Or do you have many different words?

***Break your group into men and women. Discuss the following:***

3. **Friends/Family**

1. Is it possible to love all family members equally?
2. How do your parents show they love you?
3. How do you show your love to your friends and family?

4. **Enjoy**

1. What do you love about your country?
2. What do you love about Australia?

5**. Romance/Sex**

a) who was the first person you fell in love with?

b) Is it possible to love and hate the same person?

c) In your culture, Is it okay to have sex before marriage?

d) Do you think you can only love one person in your life?

***Come back together as a group and discuss:***

6. How would you define love?

7. In the Bible (1 Corinthians 13:4-8), love is defined as:

**Love is kind and patient,**

**never jealous, boastful, proud or rude.**

**Love isn’t selfish or quick tempered.**

**It doesn’t keep a record of wrongs that others do.**

**Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil.**

**Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting.**

**Love never fails!**

**Vocabulary**

**Equally**: adv. To the same degree or level.

**Kind**: adj. Kind people do things to help others and show that they care about them.

**Patient**: adj. the quality of being able to stay calm and not get angry, especially when something takes a long time.

**Jealous**: adj. unhappy and angry because you want something that someone else has.

**Quick tempered:** when someone becomes angry very easily.

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**The many meanings of LOVE**

**Friends/Family**: to like a friend or a person in your family very much. *He loves his kids*.

**Enjoy**: to enjoy something very much or have a strong interest in something. *I love kimchi. I love football.*

**Romance/Sex**: to like someone very much and have romantic or sexual feelings for them. *She loves her husband very much*.

**Hot Topics**

1. February 14th is Valentine’s Day. Do you have Valentine’s Day in your country? What do guys/girls usually give each other?

2. In English the one word love, means so many different things. I love you, I love my shoes…..In your country do you have one word for love? Or do you have many different words?

***Break your group into men and women. Discuss the following:***

3. **Friends/Family**

1. Is it possible to love all family members equally?
2. How do your parents show they love you?
3. How do you show your love to your friends and family?

4. **Enjoy**

1. What do you love about your country?
2. What do you love about Australia?

5**. Romance/Sex**

a) who was the first person you fell in love with?

b) Is it possible to love and hate the same person?

c) In your culture, Is it okay to have sex before marriage?

d) Do you think you can only love one person in your life?

***Come back together as a group and discuss:***

6. How would you define love?

7. In the Bible (1 Corinthians 13:4-8), love is defined as:

**Love is kind and patient,**

**never jealous, boastful, proud or rude.**

**Love isn’t selfish or quick tempered.**

**It doesn’t keep a record of wrongs that others do.**

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**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**The many stages of Community**

**Community: (noun).** People who live in the same area*. I live in a small rural community.*

***Community****: A group of people with the same interests, nationality, job etc, the business/Chinese community*

***Community****: a group of individuals who have learned how to communicate honestly with one another, whose relationships are deep and accepting of others.*

**Hot Topics**

1. Where do you live in Australia? What kind of accommodation do you live in - share house, home stay, alone etc. How do you organize:

* Food?
* Cooking?
* Cleaning?
* Meal times – do you eat together?

Are you happy with your accommodation? Do you feel ‘at home’ where you are living? What could make it better?

2. Many students, who come to Australia, have never lived with other people apart from their family. What things have you learnt about yourself or other people since living with other people?

3. When people work or live together in a group, the relationships may go through four stages.

1. **Forming** – this is when you first move in or join a new group. It is the ‘honeymoon stage’. Everyone is nice to each other and excited about the new share house/class etc.
2. **Storming** – ‘the honeymoon’ period is over and people begin to notice annoying habits or personality differences.
3. **Norming** – if people have not left during the storming period, they can choose to ‘put up’ with the other person/people, but don’t get too close or ignore them.
4. **Performing** – if people learn to accept each other’s differences and actually appreciate the other person then the group or share mates become very close and life long friendships are formed.

4. Which group are you involved in at the moment? A share house, home stay, workplace, class… What stage is your group in? Is it possible to move to the performing stage? How?

**A thought on community**

Community is a place of belonging, a place where we learn to accept other people’s differences and stop trying to change them. We learn to forgive again and again. We learn to love ourselves and love others – even from different cultures!

Jesus says: “But I say to you that hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you…If you love those who love you, what good is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them (Luke: 6:27-9; 32). *(CEV)*

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**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**Leadership**

This week’s topic is about leadership and the qualities of a leader.

**Hot topics**

1. Name four world leaders.

2. What are some of the concerns world leaders are facing?

E.g. security, trade, global warming…Which issues concern the leaders of your country?

3. Who is your country’s leader and how would you describe his/her leadership style?

□ wise

□ tough

□ corrupt

□ strong

□ honest

□ gentle

□ arrogant

4. Have you ever been a leader? In your school, university, workplace, sports team, church? What are some of the pressures of being a leader? For example: making decisions, planning, communicating to others.

5. Who do you think is a good leader? What type of person are they?

□ just

□ honest

□ listens to others

□ good decision-makers

□ other…

6. There have been many great leaders in history – Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela, Jesus. In the Bible there is a story about some followers of Jesus who were arguing over who was the greatest leader.

**An Argument about Greatness** *(Luke 22:24-27)*

*Break into pairs, one person reads* ***Narrator*** *and the other* ***Jesus****.*

**Narrator**: The disciples of Jesus got into an argument about which one of them was the greatest. So Jesus told them:

**Jesus**: Foreign kings order their people around, and powerful rulers call themselves everyone’s friends. But don’t be like them. The most important one of you should be like the least important, and your leader should be like a servant. Who do people think is the greatest, a person who is served or one who serves? Isn’t it the one who is served? But I have been with you as a servant.

**Narrator**: Jesus shocked them by saying he is the servant leader.

7. This is a very different kind of leadership – servant leadership. Can you give any examples of some servant leaders you know? What do they do? How are they servants?

**Vocabulary**

**Security:** protection against terrorism

**Global warming**: concern that the world’s temperature is getting warmer.

**Wise:** able to apply their knowledge. Make good decisions

**Tough**: strong, not sensitive

**Corrupt** no honest, takes bribes

**Strong**: not weak. Gives their opinion forcefully

**Honest**: truthful. Tries to do the right thing

**Gentle**: not forceful, sensitive

**Just**: thinks of fairness, acts for all people equally.

**Arrogant**: proud, boastful, thinks they are better than others.

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

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| **March** | | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Text** | **Theme** | **Warm-Up/Introduction** |
| 5/3 | Pancake Day- Shrove Tuesday | Matthew 4:1-11 | Fasting – What could you give up? | Favourite toppings on pancakes |
| 11/3 | Jesus Heals  The Paralysed Man | Lk. 5.17-26 | Jesus is the Son of God | Teacher reads the story. As the teacher is reading, selected students and teachers listen and act out the story. |
| 18/3 | Jesus Forgives  The Woman Caught in Adultery | John 8:1-11 | Jesus brings repentance and forgiveness. | (1) Select Students to act out the story as the teacher or other student/s reads. |
| 25/3 | Jesus is God  A Life-changing Catch of Fish | Lk. 5:1-11 | Realising Jesus is God | (1) Talk about good fishing spots around Australia  (2) Talk about who is in your family and what do they do. |
| **Events** | | | | |
| * Good Friday Festival – showing main parts of the Gospel of John (with subtitles), Hot cross buns | | | | |

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**Shrove Tuesday**

Tuesday March 4, is Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day and is celebrated around the world. It is called Pancake Day because people eat nice food (pancakes) before **fasting** or going without special food leading up to the Easter festival – the festival to remember Jesus’ life, death and coming back to life.

1. What special food do you eat for different festivals? For example, dumplings for Chuseok Day in Korea, Turkey for Thanksgiving Day in America, moon cakes for Mid Autumn Festival ….

2. On Tuesday people eat pancakes. What toppings do you like on pancakes?

* maple syrup
* honey
* bananas
* jam
* cream
* butter
* strawberries

3. After Tuesday, some people fast for 40 days and finish at Easter time. They fast or go without a special food/drink/activity they like. For example some people fast from coke or coffee or a TV program they like… If you had to give up one special thing for you, what would it be? *Discuss in threes*.

4. What other special events involve fasting? For example Ramadan.

5. People fast from things during this time to remember what happened to Jesus. Here is the story about when Jesus fasted for 40 days – but he went without food and friends.

**Jesus Fasted (Matthew 4:1-11)**

6. Choose 3 people to read out the story, narrator, Jesus, Devil:

**Narrator** God’s Spirit led Jesus into the desert, so that the devil could test him. **2**After Jesus had gone without eating for forty days and nights, he was very hungry. **3**Then the devil came to him and said,   
**Devil**: “If you are God’s Son, tell these stones to turn into bread.”

**Narrator**: **4**Jesus answered,  
**Jesus**: “The Scriptures say: ‘No one can live only on food.  
People need every word that God has spoken.’”  
**Narrator**: **5**Next, the devil took Jesus to the holy city and had him stand on the highest part of the temple. **6**The devil said,   
**Devil**: “If you are God’s Son, jump off. The Scriptures say: ‘God will give his angels orders about you. They will catch you in their arms, and you won’t hurt your feet on the stones.’”  
**Narrator**: **7**Jesus answered,   
**Jesus**: “The Scriptures also say, ‘don’t try to test the Lord your God!’”  
**Narrator**: **8**Finally, the devil took Jesus up on a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms on earth and their power. **9**The devil said to him,  
**Devil**: “I will give all this to you, if you will bow down and worship me.”  
**Narrator**: **10**Jesus answered,  
**Jesus**: “Go away Satan! The Scriptures say: ‘Worship the Lord your God  and serve only him.’”  
**Narrator**: **11**Then the devil left Jesus, and angels came to help him. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. Draw the 3 things the Devil tried to get Jesus to do. (a very simple drawing!)

8. Re-tell the story to a partner.

9. What do you learn about Jesus from this story?

***Enjoy your pancakes on Tuesday!***

**Vocabulary**  
**Fast**: to go without something.  
**Devil**: The chief evil spirit  
**Scripture**: God’s word – The Bible.

**Jesus Heals –**

**Introduction**

Today we begin a series of lessons leading up to Christmas. Christmas and Easter are the two main festivals in Australia. To understand the importance of these festivals you need to know more about Jesus. Through these lessons you will learn why these festivals are so important and some important vocabulary associated with these special events. This week’s lesson is about a famous story where Jesus heals a disabled man.

**HOT TOPICS**

1. How are disabled people treated in your country?
2. What are miracles? Do you believe in them? Have you ever experienced a miracle?

### **Today’s Lesson…**

JESUS THE HEALER

The story begins when Jesus was around 30 and began to go around teaching and healing may people. Today's story is about a paralysed man who meets Jesus.

Choose 6 people to read out the story: Narrator, Jesus, Lawyer 1, Lawyer 2, Lawyer 3, and Person.

**Vocabulary**

**Paralysed:** cannot move

**Faith:** believing without proof; to trust

**Forgive**: to decide not to be angry with someone or not to punish them for something they have done.

**Sin:** breaking the law of God;

wrongdoing.

**Blasphemy**: words or acts that dishonour God; making fun

**Law:** God’s rules for living.

**Picked up**: to lift up, to carry.

**Amazed**: surprised.

***Luke 5:17 – 26*** *(CEV)*

**Narrator**: One day some Pharisees and experts of the Law sat listening to Jesus teach. God had given Jesus the power to heal the sick, and some people came carrying a paralysed man on a mat. They tried to take him inside the house and put him in front of Jesus. But because of the crowd, they couldn’t get him to Jesus. So they went up on the roof, where they removed some tiles and let the mat down into the middle of the room.

When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the paralysed man:

**Jesus:** “My friend, your sins are forgiven.”

**Narrator**: Some teachers of the Law who were sitting there began arguing,

**Lawyer 1**: “Jesus must think he is God!

**Lawyer 2:** This is blasphemy!

**Lawyer 3**: Only God can forgive sins!”

**Narrator**: Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he said to them,

**Jesus**: Why are you thinking that? Is it easier for me to tell this paralysed man that his sins re forgiven or to tell him to get up and walk? But now you will see that the Son of Man has the right to forgive sins here on earth. “I tell you, get up, pick up your mat and go home!

**Narrator:** Jesus then said to the man:

**Jesus:** Get up! Pick up your mat and walk home.

**Narrator:** At once, the man stood up in front of everyone. He picked up his mat and went home, giving thanks to God. Everyone was amazed and praised God, saying

**Person:** We have seen a great miracle today!

****

**Discussion**

1. What did Jesus say to the paralyzed man?
2. What did the teachers of the Law think?
3. What does it mean that Jesus can forgive sins?
4. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
5. Have you ever forgiven someone or been forgiven by someone?



**Jesus Forgives - A Woman Caught in Adultery**

**Introduction**

*Christmas and Easter are the two main festivals in Australia. Through these lessons you will learn why Christmas is so important and some vocabulary associated with this special event.*  *To understand the importance of these festivals you need to know more about Jesus and why he is so famous. Today's story is about how Jesus forgives. It is about a woman caught in adultery with a man who is not her husband and Jesus’ response to her.*

**HOT TOPICS**

1.  Match these wrong doings with the penalty.

**Wrongdoing**

**Penalty**

1.  traffic infringement a. imprisonment

2.  overdue library book b. detention

3.  illegal tackle (football) c. penalty

4.  robbery d. deported

5.  no visa e. late fine

6.  2 yellow cards (football) f. suspension

7.  swearing at school g. capital punishment

8.  murder h. reprimand (warning)

9.  wrongdoing at work i. fine or penalty

2. Do you have capital punishment in your country? Do you agree or disagree with capital punishment? (*In threes discuss).*

**The Story**

***Choose 5 people to read the story: Narrator, Religious Leader, Lawyer, Jesus and the Woman***

**Vocabulary**

**Temple**: a building used for worship

**Adultery**: sex with someone who is not your husband or wife.

**Command**: order, direct, or demand you to obey.

**Accuse**: to blame someone for some wrong thing.

**Sin**: to break God’s law – do something wrong.

**Stone to death**: A form of capital punishment where stones are thrown at the accused until they are killed.

***John 8:2-11.*** *(CEV)*

**Narrator**: Early the next morning Jesus went back to the Temple. The people came to him, and he sat down and started teaching the people. The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees (*religious leaders*) brought in a woman who had been caught in bed with a man who wasn’t her husband, and they made her stand before all of them.

**Religious**  Teacher (*Jesus),* this woman was caught in adultery with a man   
 **Leader** who is not her husband (adultery).

**Lawyer**: In our Law a woman who commits adultery must be stoned to   
 death.

**Religious** Now, what do you say Jesus? **Leader**

**Narrator**  They asked Jesus this question, because they wanted to test him and bring some charges against him. They kept asking   
 Jesus wanting to accuse him*.* But Jesus bent over and wrote   
 on the ground with his finger.

**Jesus** Whoever has done nothing wrong may throw the first stone at   
 her.

**Narrator** Then Jesus bent over again and wrote on the ground. When   
 the religious leaders and lawyers heard this, they all left, one   
 by one, beginning with the oldest. Jesus was left alone, with the woman standing there. Jesus got up.

**Jesus** (*to the woman*). Where are they? Is there no one left to accuse you?

**Woman** No one, sir.

**Jesus** Well, then, I do not accuse you either. Go, but do not sin   
 again.

****

**Discussion**

1. Give each pair a WH question to answer: ***Who*** is the story about, ***What*** is the story about, ***When*** did it happen, ***Where*** did it happen, ***Why*** is this story told?
2. Interview the actors in the story and ask the questions:

**Lawyer:** What is the punishment for adultery? Why didn’t you throw a a stone?

**Religious Leader**: Why did you walk away?

**Woman**: How will your life change after this experience?

**Jesus:** What authority/power do you have to forgive sins?

3 What do we learn about Jesus in this story?

4. Have you ever forgiven someone or been forgiven?

**Jesus is God **

**Introduction A Life Changing Catch of Fish**

*Today we continue our series of lessons leading up to Easter. Christmas and Easter are the two main festivals in Australia. To understand the importance of these festivals you need to know more about Jesus. Through these lessons you will learn why these festivals are so important and some important vocabulary associated with these special events.* *Today's story is about a life changing catch of fish.*

**Hot Topics**

1. Have you ever been fishing? Who taught you to fish? What did you catch? Is it easy to catch fish in your country?

2. Why are fishing nets illegal in some countries? Is that a good or bad thing?

3. What qualities of character do you need to be a good fisherman/woman?

4. What is the most amazing thing you have ever seen in nature?

**Today’s Lesson…**

*Choose 3 people to read the story*:

Narrator, Jesus and Simon (you may want to break the group up into threes so everyone has a speaking part).

**Vocabulary**

**Lake Galilee**: a lake in the land of Israel

**Master**: a respectful name for a teacher of God’s word.

**Partner:** someone who shares an activity with another.

**Sin**: Wrongdoing.

**Sinful**: guilty of many wrongdoings.

**Amazed**: greatly surprised.

**Reluctant**: not eager to do something.

*Luke 5:1-11(CEV)*

**Narrator:** One day Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Galilee teaching the people. Many people were pushing their way up to him to listen to God’s message. He saw two boats pulled up on the beach; the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats that belonged to Simon and asked him to row it out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat in the boat and taught the crowd. (Pause)

When Jesus had finished speaking, he told Simon:

**Jesus**: Row the boat out into the deep water, and let your nets down to catch some fish.

**Narrator**: Simon answered:

**Simon**: Master, we have worked all night long and haven’t caught a thing. But if you tell me to, I will let the nets down.

**Narrator**: They let the nets down and caught such a large number of fish that their nets were about to break. So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full of fish that the boats were about to sink. When Simon saw what had happened, he fell on his knees before Jesus.

**Simon**: Go away from me Lord! I am a sinful man!

**Narrator**: He and the others with him were all amazed at the large number of fish they had caught.

**Jesus:**  (to Simon): Don’t be afraid: from now on you will be catching people.

**Narrator**: They pulled the boats up on the beach, left everything, and followed Jesus.

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**Discussion**

1. What was surprising in this story?
2. How did Peter’s life change after this event?
3. What was it like for you to leave everything in your country to come to Australia? What were the hardest things to leave?
4. Can you think of one event that has changed your life or influenced you?

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| **April** | | | | | | | |
| **Date** | | | **Topic** | | **Text** | **Theme** | **Warm-Up/Introduction** |
| 1/4 | | Why did people want to kill Jesus? | | | Mark 11.15-18 | Jesus had a large following and confronted the corrupt religious leaders | Talk about market places around Australia or famous markets around the world – Korea, Japan, China, Hong Kong etc. |
| 8/4 | | The Passion of Christ | | | Mark 15: 16 - 39 | The death of Jesus | Introduce the Easter symbols. Hand out an Easter bag filled with eggs, little yellow Easter chickens, chocolate rabbits, and symbol of a cross. Explain that around Easter time, students will see all these Ester symbols in the shops. They have to guess why they are important for Easter? This introduces the theme of new life, fertility/birth – being born again, and death (the cross). |
| 15/4 | Jesus is Alive | | | Mark 16:1-8 | | Jesus is Alive | Place some spices in paper bags – Students have to guess the name of the spices. |
| 22/4 | Peace | | | Luke 12.22-31 | | God cares for you | Conduct thumb wars - girls vs girls and boys vs boys |
| 29/4 | After Easter | | | Acts 1:4-11 | | How Christianity grew and spread throughout the world | Teacher says to have a look at them and then goes outside and changes one thing – hair, shoes etc and the students have to guess. Teacher chooses a few students to do the same – the group has to guess what has changed. |
| **Events** | | | | | | | |
| * You can invite students to watch a dawn service or Anzac parade * 7 Stories of Hope sessions with interested students – introducing Jesus | | | | | | | |

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**EASTER**

**Why did people want to kill Jesus?**

We have 3 weeks before the Easter festival. For English Corner we are doing a series of lessons on Easter and the man behind Easter – Jesus. We have learnt that Jesus was a famous teacher and forgave people’s sins. Today we learn why some people wanted to kill him.

**Hot Topics**

1.Have you ever been to a busy marketplace – for example Dong Dae Moon Markets in Seoul or Temple Street markets in Hong Kong? Describe the marketplace.

2. Write down all the words you can think of to describe a busy marketplace. For example: sellers yelling out, the aroma of food cooking, bustling crowds.

**Today’s story**

Today’s story is about a busy marketplace - not a market on the street but inside a temple. In threes, read the story: *Narrator1, Narrator 2 and Jesus.*

**Narrator 1**: When they arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus went to the Temple and began to drive out all those who were buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the stools of those who sold pigeons. Jesus would not let anyone carry anything through the Temple courtyards. He then taught the people:

**Jesus:** “It is written in the Scriptures that God said, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for the people of all nations.’ But you have turned it into a hideout for thieves!”

**Narrator 2**:The chief priests and the teachers of the Law heard of this, so they began looking for some way to kill Jesus. They were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

When evening came, Jesus and his disciples left the city.

**Discussion**

1. What did Jesus see in the temple?
2. Jesus reacted angrily. Why did he do this? Was Jesus’ reaction okay?
3. Why did the chief priests and teachers of the Law want to kill Jesus?
4. Does this problem of ‘religion as business’ happen today?
5. What is God’s Temple/church meant to be like?
6. Have you been to church in Australia? What was it like?

**Vocabulary**

**Pharisee:** a religious leader

**Temple:** a place of worship

**Scripture**: a holy book

**Thief**: someone who steals things.

**Drive** **out**: to get rid of forcibly

**Stool**: a seat that does not have a back or arms.

**Overthrown**: to remove something with power or force

**Disciples**: followers of Jesus.

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**EASTER**

**Why did people want to kill Jesus?**

We have 3 weeks before the Easter festival. For English Corner we are doing a series of lessons on Easter and the man behind Easter – Jesus. We have learnt that Jesus was a famous teacher and forgave people’s sins. Today we learn why some people wanted to kill him.

**Hot Topics**

1.Have you ever been to a busy marketplace – for example Dong Dae Moon Markets in Seoul or Temple Street markets in Hong Kong? Describe the marketplace.

2. Write down all the words you can think of to describe a busy marketplace. For example: sellers yelling out, the aroma of food cooking, bustling crowds.

**Today’s story**

Today’s story is about a busy marketplace - not a market on the street but inside a temple. In threes, read the story: *Narrator1, Narrator 2 and Jesus.*

**Narrator 1**: When they arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus went to the Temple and began to drive out all those who were buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the stools of those who sold pigeons. Jesus would not let anyone carry anything through the Temple courtyards. He then taught the people:

**Jesus:** “It is written in the Scriptures that God said, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for the people of all nations.’ But you have turned it into a hideout for thieves!”

**Narrator 2**:The chief priests and the teachers of the Law heard of this, so they began looking for some way to kill Jesus. They were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

When evening came, Jesus and his disciples left the city.

**Discussion**

1. What did Jesus see in the temple?
2. Jesus reacted angrily. Why did he do this? Was Jesus’ reaction okay?
3. Why did the chief priests and teachers of the Law want to kill Jesus?
4. Does this problem of ‘religion as business’ happen today?
5. What is God’s Temple/church meant to be like?
6. Have you been to church in Australia? What was it like?

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**Pharisee:** a religious leader

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**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**EASTER - The Good Friday Story**

The last few weeks we have also talked about Jesus’ life.

To understand Easter you need to know some information about the man behind Easter – Jesus.

Review: In your group discuss – (5 minutes)

1. What are some things that Jesus did?
2. What are some things that Jesus taught?
3. Why did people follow him?
4. What did the religious leaders of the day think about Jesus?

Have you seen Mel Gibson’s Movie: “The Passion”? It shows the death and resurrection of Jesus. Many people don’t understand why Jesus died. Today we will look at the story of Jesus’ death.

***Below is the story of Jesus’ crucifixion (dying on a cross). In your groups you will need: a narrator, soldiers (4), religious leader 1, religious leader 2, Jesus, Crowd, criminal 1, criminal 2.* Read the story once for understanding and then act out the story.**

**The Passion of Christ—English Corner Style**

**Narrator:** (*soldiers do the following actions*): The soldiers led Jesus inside the courtyard and called together the rest of the troops. They put a purple robe on Jesus, and on his head they placed a crown that they had made out of thorny branches. They made fun of Jesus and shouted:

**Soldier 1**:Hail! You king of the Jews!

**Soldiers 2,3, 4**: Long live the King of the Jews!

**Narrator**: The soldiers beat Jesus on the head with a stick. They spat on him and led him off to be nailed on a cross. (*Pause)*. (*Women do the following actions*): A group of women followed Jesus weeping and wailing for him. Jesus turned to them and said:

**Jesus**: Women of Jerusalem! Don’t cry for me, but for yourselves and your children.

**Narrator**: Two other men, both of them criminals, were also led out to be put to death with Jesus. The soldiers took Jesus to a hill to be crucified. They crucified Jesus there, and the two criminals, one of his right and the other on his left. Jesus said:

**Jesus:**  Forgive them Father! They don’t know what they are doing!

**Narrator**: (*soldiers do the following actions*): The soldiers gambled for Jesus’ clothes among themselves by throwing dice. The crowd stood there watching while the soldiers mocked him.

**Religious Leader 1:** He saved others. Now he should save himself!

**Religious Leader 2**: If he is the Messiah—God’s chosen one—come down from the cross!

**Soldier 4**: Save yourself if you are the King of the Jews.

**Narrator**: One of the criminals hanging there threw insults at Jesus:

**Criminal 1**: Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!

**Narrator**: The other one, however, told the first one off.

**Criminal 2**: Don’t you fear God? Aren’t we getting the same punishment as this man? We got what we deserved, but he didn’t do anything wrong.

**Narrator**: Then criminal 2 turned to Jesus and said:

**Criminal 2**: Remember me when you come into power!

**Narrator**: Jesus said to him:

**Jesus**: I promise that today you will be with me in heaven.

**Narrator**: When Jesus was crucified, some women stood at a distance to watch because they were afraid the soldiers might arrest them, as they were family and friends of Jesus. They were upset and cried for Jesus. The sky turned dark and Jesus shouted:

**Jesus**: Father, I put myself in your hands!

**Narrator:** Then he died. A Roman soldier saw what happened and said:

**Soldier 4**: Jesus must really have been the Son of God!

**Discussion questions**

1. Why do you think Jesus died?
2. Who killed Jesus? Was it the soldiers? Was it the Jewish religious teachers? Was it the crowd? Or was it God’s plan?
3. In your group your teacher will show you an example to explain why Jesus died – (The Book example).
4. This is why we have Good Friday, the first public holiday of Easter. Why do you think we call it ‘Good’ Friday? What will you be doing on Good Friday?

**Vocabulary:**

**Arrest:** If the police arrest someone, they take them away to ask them about a crime which they may have committed.

**Made Fun.** To tease or make a joke in an unkind way.

**Messiah**: God’s saviour for the world

**Criminal**: someone who has committed a crime.

**Punishment**: When someone is punished. To make women suffer because they had done something bad.

**Robe** (noun): a long, loose piece of clothing. Usually worn for special occasions.

**Beat** (verb) to hit a person or animal hard many times.

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**EASTER**

Over the last few weeks we have been talking about Easter and what it means. Today’s discussion is the most important part of the Easter story. What happened after Jesus died. This story is about what the women saw when they went to visit Jesus’ grave.

**Hot Topics**

1. What are your funeral customs?
2. Is there a special day to visit graves in your country? Explain.
3. In your country what do people believe will happen to you after you die?

**The Story – The resurrection of Jesus**

*(You will need 4 people to read the story; A Narrator, Mary, an Angel and Jesus.)*

**Narrato**r: After the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought **spices** to go and **anoint** the **body** of Jesus. Very early on Sunday morning, at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they said to one another,

**Mary**: “Who will **roll** away the **stone** for us from the **entrance** to the **tomb**?” (It was a very large stone.)

**Narrato**r: Then they looked up and saw that the stone had already been rolled back. So they **entered** the tomb, where they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe—and they were alarmed.

**Angel**: “Don’t be alarmed”, he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here—he has been **raised**! Look, here is the place where he was placed. Now go, and give this message to his disciples, including Peter. ‘He is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him, just as he told you.’”

**(Jesus appears to his disciples)**

**Narrator:** The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Jesus, they worshipped him, even though some of them doubted. Jesus said to them:

**Jesus**: “I have been given all authority in heaven and earth. Go, then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.

**Discussion**

1. Jesus had told his followers before he died: “*I will be sentenced to death and they will make fun of me and spit on me. They will beat me and kill me. But three days later I will rise to life*.” Why were the women surprised that Jesus’ body was gone?

2. Why is it so important that Jesus was raised from the dead? What does it say about who Jesus was?

3. Around the world the Easter festival has two important days. Good Friday – the day that Jesus died and Easter Sunday the day that Jesus was raised. Discuss what people usually do on these days.

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*Learning English Through Discussion*

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E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**Anzac Day - Peace**

April 25th is Anzac Day. It is a public holiday to remember people who served during the war and it is also a time to remember peace. Today we will talk about the many meanings of the word *peace.*

**Peace**:*noun*: 1. where there is no war, violence, or arguing.

2. When there is quiet and calm *a feeling of peace*. 3. Peace of mind a feeling that you do not need to worry about anything.

**HOT TOPICS**

1. What are you going to do for the Anzac Day holiday? *In threes discuss*. What do you normally do in your country on a public holiday?
2. Peace has different meanings. **First meaning of peace:** *Where there is no war, violence, or arguing*. What countries are in conflict at the moment? Why is there no peace in these places? Do you think world peace is possible? *In threes discuss.*

3.  Are you a peacemaker? When there is an argument between two people do you:

1. join in
2. take sides
3. go silent
4. try and mediate

4. Second meaning of p***eace****: Peace of mind a feeling that you do not need to worry about anything.* What are you worried about now? Does worrying help you?

5. When you go to sleep at night, what do you worry about?

□ English?

□ Family?

□ Money?

□ Accommodation?

□ Work?

□other …

6. What do you do to stop worrying?

* Listen to music?
* Get up and get a drink?
* Write in a journal?
* Read a book?
* Check Face book?
* Pray?

*7*. In the Bible, Jesus said:

“I tell you not to worry about your life. Don’t worry about having something to eat, drink or wear. Isn’t life more than food or clothing? Look at the birds in the sky! They don’t plant or harvest. They don’t even store grain in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them. Aren’t you worth more than birds? Can worry make you live longer? Don’t worry about tomorrow. It will take care of itself. You have enough to worry about today. ([Luke 12.22-31](javascript:openref('/biblija.cgi?Bible=Bible&set=3&l=en&pos=1&qall=0&idq=0&idp0=33&m=%4C%6B+12.22-31');))

a. How do Jesus’ words written above give you peace? *In threes discuss.*

**Vocabulary**

**Mediate**: verb: to try to find a solution between two or more people.

**Worry**: to think about bad things that might happen.

E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U

*Learning English Through Discussion*

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**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

***A Life Changing Event…….***

**The Easter festival has finished….or has it ? This week we will look at what happened after Easter and how that one event changed peoples’ lives forever…….**

**Hot Topics**

1. How have you changed since coming to Australia?

a. the food I eat….

b. the amount of sleep I have…..

c. the type of unit/house I live in…..

d. the type of friends I have……

e. the view of the world I have …….

2. Talk to your partner about one event in your life that changed you….. and how it has changed you….For example: moving to another country, breaking up with a boy/girl friend, a family crisis, getting a good or bad score in a test ….other….

***The Easter Story continued…..***

**1. Review**. Put in order the Easter events.

Number 1(first event) to 7 (the last event).

Jesus teaches and does many miracles

Jesus is arrested

Jesus is whipped

Jesus appears to his disciples

Jesus is crucified

Jesus dies

Jesus is resurrected (comes back to life)

**Introduction**

After Jesus died, he showed himself to his friends. They were amazed to see him alive again. What happened next in the Easter story changed the disciples’ lives and history! Now read what is recorded in the bible in the book of Acts.

You will need a **N*arrator***, ***Jesus***, ***Angel and Disciples (the rest of the group)***.

**The Reading** *(Acts 1:4-11)*

**Narrator:** For forty days after Jesus’ death, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times in ways that proved that he was alive. And when his disciples came together, Jesus gave them this order:

**Jesus**: Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift I told you about, the gift my Father God promised. John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit

**Jesus**: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and give you power. Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and everywhere in the world.

**Narrator**: After Jesus had said this and while they were still watching, Jesus was taken up to heaven as they watched him, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were still watching when suddenly two men dressed in white suddenly stood beside them and said:

**Angel**: Why are you standing there looking up at the sky? Jesus has been taken to heaven. But he will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven.

**Narrator**: The disciples received the Holy Spirit from Jesus and their lives changed. They went everywhere telling people the Good News about Jesus. Today the Easter event is still remembered and lived out in the lives of the followers of Jesus.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Interviews**

**The Narrator** will now interview the people in the story.

**To Jesus**: What gift were you going to give the disciples? How would this help them in the future?

**To the disciples**: How have your lives changed? How do you feel about telling people in Judea, Samaria and everywhere in the world about Jesus?

**Angels**: When will Jesus come back? Do you know?

**Discussion**

1. *In threes discuss*: How has your Easter in Australia been different this year? What new things have you learnt about the meaning of Easter….?

**Vocabulary:**

**Crucified:** death penalty by being nailed to a cross.

**Resurrection:** coming alive again

**Disciples**: followers of Jesus

**Baptised:** a symbol that someone believes in God

**Holy Spirit**: God’s Spirit sent to live in a believer’s life to help them. Given to someone when they believe in Jesus.

**Kingdom**: a place that belongs to a King. The disciples thought that Jesus would rescue them from the Romans and give the ‘kingdom’, the land back to Israel. However, Jesus was giving them God’s kingdom! A place in heaven, with Jesus as their King.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **May** | | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Text** | **Theme** | **Warm-Up/Introduction** |
| 6/05 | Mother’s Day | Ps 139:13-16 | God created us purposefully | Have some mother’s day cards – students can choose which card they would want to give their mother and why. |
| 13/05 | Multiculturalism | Gal 26,28 | We are all one in Christ | A good topic to cover whenever there is a multicultural festival in your city/town. |
| 20/05 | National Sorry Day | Luke 10:25-37 | Loving Others |  |
| 27/05 | Thanksgiving | 1Thes 5:16-17 | Being thankful | Write up on the board all the different ways we can say thank you and how we can reply or role-play it:  Thanks a lot - No worries - It was nothing, Thanks heaps – No problem; Thank you – Anytime, Don’t mention it; Ta, My pleasure |
| **Events** | | | | |
| * English Corner Camp @ Binna Burra | | | | |

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**MOTHER’S DAY**

This Sunday is Mother’s Day in Australia. It is a time children give gifts and spend time with their mothers. Today our discussion topic is about mothers!

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Do you celebrate Mother’s Day in your country? How do you celebrate it? What do you do? What are some typical gifts people give their mother?

2. *(In threes)* In your country what things does a mother do (in the home and outside the home)? Is it similar or dissimilar to mothers you have seen in Australia?

4*. (In pairs*) Describe your mother. What does she look like? What does she do? What is her personality (see vocabulary box below)? How are you like (similar to your mother) how are you different?

5*. (Divide your group into girls and guys)*

Girls: If you get married – what kind of mother do you want to be?

Boys: If you get married what kind of mother do you want your wife to be like?

6. In your country, after a woman gives birth, what are some things she can and cannot do?

In the Bible it says;

“God, you are the one who put me together inside my mother’s body, and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me. Everything you do is marvelous!...Nothing about me is hidden from you! I was secretly woven together and with your own eyes you saw my body being formed. Even before I was born, you had written in your book of life everything I would do! *Psalm 139*

7. Wow! You are wonderfully made! This is very different to what society says about us. What do magazines and advertisers say we need to look like to be beautiful?

8. Is cosmetic surgery popular in your country? What would you have changed?

9. Is it possible to be content (happy) with your appearance?

**Vocabulary:**

**Womb:** the place in the body where a woman carries a baby before it is born.

**Typical**: usual

**Marvelous**: wonderful! Very, very good.

**Personality adjectives**:

**+ neutral -**

kind outgoing quick tempered

generous shy critical

encouraging reserved nagger

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*Learning English through Discussion*

**Multiculturalism**

There are many multicultural festivals in Australia.

What is multiculturalism? An easy definition is many cultures living together.

**Multicultural Australia Quiz …In pairs guess…**

***True or False***

1. 43 % of the Australian population was either born overseas or had at least one parent born overseas

2. There are people from 120 countries living in Australia?

3. At the end of WW11, Australia’s population was 7 million with around 90% born in Australia. Today the population is 21 million, with 75% born in Australia.

4. The most common language other than English spoken in Australia is Vietnamese.

**Hot Topics**

1. Is your country multicultural? Why or why not? What other cultures are living in your country?

2. The Multicultural debate. Break your group into two teams. ***Multiculturalism is a good thing***. **Team 1**, you have to **agree** with this statement. Together discuss reasons why multiculturalism is **good**. *For example: I think multiculturalism is good because we can learn about other cultures…* **Team 2**; discuss reasons why it is **bad**. *For example, I think multiculturalism is bad because people from different cultures are too different and history shows that people from different cultures cannot live together peacefully*… Then present your ideas to the whole group. The teacher will facilitate the debate.

3.Is multiculturalism possible in today’s world? Why or why not? Discuss in pairs.

4. Sometimes one culture thinks it is better than other cultures. 2000 years ago, some Jewish people thought they were more special than other cultures around them. In response to this Paul, a Jewish Christian wrote in the Bible (Galatians 3:28):

“It is through faith we are all God’s children, united by Christ. So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles (people from other cultures) between slaves and free people, between men and women; we are all one in Jesus Christ.

5. What was Paul telling the Jewish and Gentile Christians? What can people from different cultures have in common and how?

**Vocabulary**

**Faith**: To believe in someone or something.

**United**: joined together.

E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U

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**United**: joined together.

**National Sorry Day**

This week is an important week for all Australians. It is a week for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians to remember the past and look forward to the future together.

**Hot Topics**

1. What do you know about

Australian Indigenous history?

2. Have you met an Indigenous Australian?’

3. Who are the Indigenous people in your country?

**Today’s Lesson…**

Today’s story is about 2 people groups—the Jews and the Samaritans. The story shows how relationships can be improved**.**

Today you get to be actors and actresses – a great way to practice your reading and expression!

**Introduction**

Jesus told some great stories. Stories that teach about life. Today’s story is about two **ethnic groups**. The Jews and the Samaritans. There was great **bitterness** and hatred between the Jews and the Samaritan people. This story is based around 2000 years ago. The story is set along a road from Jerusalem to Jericho. The road was narrow and **steep**. It was surrounded by wild, **desolate** country. Travellers had to be careful of robbers.

**Vocabulary**

**Ethnic**: a particular group of people

**Bitterness**: angry and upset because something happened that you cannot forgive.

**Desolate**: a desolate place is empty and makes you feel sad.

**Steep**: a hill or slope that goes up or down very quickly.

**Trap**: to trick someone into something.

**Soul**: the part of the person, which is not their body, which continues to exist after they die.

**Robber:** someone who steals.

**Stripped**: to take someone’s clothes off.

**Beat:** to hit someone very hard, many times.

**Eternal**: lasts forever

**Pity**: a feeling of sympathy for someon

**Poured**: to make liquid flow

**Wounds**: An injury

**The Story – Luke 10: 25-37**

**s:**

**The Story** (**Choose 9 people to act out the following parts:** Narrator, Jesus, Lawyer, Traveller, Robber, Samaritan, Priest, Levite, Hotel manager.

1. Read through once. Check for new vocabulary and understanding.

2. Read the story again this time acting out the story to check for understanding and practice your listening skills.

3. Interview (see discussion section for interview questions)

*act out while*

**Narrator:** One day a lawyer wanted to know who his neighbour was (the people he should love). Jesus told this story to him.

**Jesus:** There was once a traveller who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, **stripped** him, and **beat** him up, leaving him half dead. It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by, on the other side of the road. In the same way a Levite came along, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by, on the other side. But a Samaritan man who was travelling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with **pity.** He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to a hotel, where he took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the Hotel manager.

**Samaritan:** Take care of him and when I come back this way, I will pay whatever   
 else you spend on him.

**Narrator:** And Jesus concluded:

**Jesus:**  In your opinion, which one of these three people acted like a   
 neighbour towards the man attacked by the robbers?

**Narrator:** The lawyer answered:

**Lawyer:** The one who was kind to him.

**Jesus:** You go and do the same.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The teacher will now interview each person.**

1. (to the Priest) Why didn’t you stop to help the traveler?
2. (to the Levite): Why didn’t you stop?
3. (to the Samaritan): Why did you stop?

**Discussion: (in pairs)**

Who is your neighbour?

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**THANKSGIVING**

May 31 is the National Day of Thanksgiving. Many churches, communities and individuals will come together on this day to say thank you.

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Does your country have a national day of Thanksgiving? What do you do on this day? Why? *(Large group)*
2. In your living situation – family, share house, home stay. Who normally:
3. Cleans the toilet?
4. Cleans the bathroom?
5. Cleans dishes?
6. Cooks the dinner?
7. ………
8. Who do you need to say thanks to? How can you say thanks? *Discuss in fours…..*
9. Write a note; Give a card; Say thanks; Give a small gift……..

How do you say thanks…

b. Thanks a lot, thanks a million, really appreciate it,   
you’re the best, ta, thanks heaps, ………..

3. Being thankful does not come easily or naturally. It is hard to be thankful when we are tired, depressed or homesick. In the Bible, there is a story about one man who was thankful.…Break your group into threes to read the story together. You will need a ***narrator***, ***Man*** ***1***, ***Man 2*** and ***Jesus.***

**Jesus and the Ten Lepers***: Luke 17:11-19. CEV*

**Narrator**: Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus   
traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice!

**Man 1:** Jesus!

**Man 2**: Master!

**Man 1:** Have pity on us!

**Jesus:** Go, show yourselves to the priests.

**Narrator**: And as they went, they were cleansed (healed). One of them, when he saw he was healed,   
came back to Jesus, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him – and he was from the country of Samaria. Jesus asked the man:

**Jesus**: Why was this foreigner the only one who   
 came back to thank God?

**Narrator**: Then Jesus told the man:

**Jesus**: You can get up and go. Your faith has made   
 you well.”

4. Nine men did not go back and say thank you? Why? One man did go back and say thank you. Why?

5. In your life who has done something special for you? How have you thanked them? In pairs, discuss what you would you say to them.

Vocabulary

Leprosy: a skin disease

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e. ………

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a. Write a note; Give a card; Say thanks; Give a   
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How do you say thanks…

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|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **June** | | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Text** | **Theme** | **Warm-Up/Introduction** |
| 3/06 | Queen’s Birthday – Gifts | John 3:16 | God’s Gift | Line up according to which month you were born in. Who is having a birthday soon? Sing happy birthday to them. |
| 10/06 | Happiness | Mat 5: 3-9 | True happiness | Ask students what are they happy about with their college/work and why. |
| 17/06 | Grace | Amazing Grace Song | God’s Grace | Get students to act out a famous movie title ‘charades’ and discuss what is their favourite movie and why. Teacher then to introduce the true story of the movie, ‘Amazing Grace’. As the end of the lesson you can have everyone sing the song together. |
| 24/06 | The Tax Collector | Luke 19:1-10 | Being open to new ways of thinking | What would you do if someone gave you $1000? |
| **Events** | | | | |
| * About God dinners of 6 | | | | |

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**Gifts**

Monday, June 9 is the Queen’s birthday holiday. Monday is a public holiday! Today’s topic is about birthdays and gifts.

**Hot Topics**

1. Do you know how old Queen Elizabeth II is? *Whole group.*

2. Does your country have a king or queen – or did you   
have one in the past? Is it a good idea to have a royal   
family? Why or why not*? Whole group.*

3. Which birthdays are special in your culture? What do you do for those birthdays*?* In Australia, 18th, 21st and 40th   
are important birthdays.

4. What is the best present you have ever received for your   
birthday? *In pairs*.

5. What would be the best present these people could   
receive:

a. a 7 year old child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. a 17 year old in Brisbane \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c. an International student learning English \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
 d. yourself \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the worst present you have ever received – be honest! In English we can say many different things after we receive a gift. *Practice them in pairs*:

Person A: Gives Person B a present.

Person B: “Oh thank you”

“Oh it’s just what I wanted!”

“Oh, I love it!”

“Oh, you shouldn’t have!”

7. In your country, do you celebrate a birthday for someone famous? Whose birthdays do you celebrate? *In threes*.

8. In Australia we have two public holidays for two famous people: – the Queen’s birthday and the birth of Jesus. The Queen will receive gifts on her birthday – like we do. But at Christmas, God gave us a gift, Jesus. The Bible tells us about that gift:

*“For God so loved the world he gave his only Son, whoever believes in Him should not die but have eternal life.” John 3 16*

9. What does this gift mean? Discuss.

**Vocabulary**

**Eternal**: lasts forever

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E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**HAPPINESS**

‘What Makes Us Happy’ is a topic of a news article in the Sydney Morning Herald. The article reported the following things:

**1. Money can’t buy happiness.**

The article said:“Over the past 50 years many countries in the world have become richer. But happiness has not increased. Americans **were less** happy in the 1990’s than in the 1940’s, even though they are much richer. People in Japan, who went from being poor in the 1950’s to rich in the 1980’s, did not become happier”. What do you think? Does being richer make you happy? Why or why not?

2. **Four in 10 Australians think life *is getting worse* even when our economy is better off than many other countries.**

Do you think life is getting **worse** or **better**? Why or why not? What about in your country?

3. **The majority of Australians** (77%) think politicians should try and make us **happier** - **not** richer.” What could the government do to make people happier? For example: Make more parks and BBQ’s for people to enjoy.

4. **Almost three in five Australians said their relationship with their family is the most important thing that made them happy**.

What are the **5 most important things** that make you happy?

* Living in Brisbane
* Having a girl friend/boy friend/husband/wife
* Wearing the latest fashion
* Having a job
* Owning the latest technology
* Spending time with family
* Finding a good share house/ home stay
* Being healthy
* Knowing God
* Having friends
* Other…..

5. Only 5% of Australians surveyed said God was the most important relationship that made them happy. *In the Bible, Jesus talked a lot about true happiness.*

*Jesus said:*

**1. Happy** are those people who know they are **spiritually poor** – the kingdom of God belongs to them.

**2. Happy** are those who **mourn** – God will comfort them.

**3**. **Happy** are those people who are **humble** – they will receive   
 what God has promised

**4**. **Happy** are those people whose greatest goal in life is to **do   
 what God wants** – God will satisfy them fully!

**5**. **Happy** are those who are **merciful** to others – God will be   
 merciful to them!

**6**. **Happy** are those who work for **peace** – God will call them his children!

*The happiness that Jesus is talking about is a deeper happiness. It is not just a feeling but also a sense of peace and joy. A knowing about God and about yourself.*

**Vocabulary**

**Spiritually poor** – know they need God’s help

**Mourn** – are very sad about the sin or bad things they have done

**Humble** – not proud. They know they are not perfect

**Merciful** – kind and gentle

**Peace** – calm mind and heart. Not anxious or worried

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E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**Amazing Grace**

*Amazing Grace* is the title of a movie. The movie tells the story of how slave trading was stopped in Britain. It is also the title of a very famous song, ‘Amazing Grace’. (***Grace***: showing kindness to someone who does not deserve it.)

**Hot topics**

1. What do you know about slave trading? Does slave trading still exist today?

2. Do you know the song, ‘Amazing Grace’? Can you hum the tune of Amazing Grace?

This song was written by John Newton, **(**1725-1807).

John Newton became a sailor at the age of 11. He joined the slave trade and sailed to Africa, forcibly capturing Africans and taking them to America and Britain to be sold as slaves. The slaves were treated very badly and many died on the ship.

During one trip, a terrible storm hit the ship and John Newton nearly died. He cried out to God to save him and God did. John Newton couldn’t believe that God would save such a terrible person like himself. A person who had done unspeakable evil to other human beings. He said, “Only God’s amazing grace could take such a rude, evil, slave-trading sailor and change him into a child of God.”

John Newton wrote the lyrics to the song Amazing Grace from this experience of God’s grace, where he said he was once blind but now could see. He became a Christian in 1748 and stopped being involved in the slave trade. He became a Christian priest and wrote many other songs.

3. Read the lyrics of the song below and discuss:

*Amazing Grace*

*How sweet the sound*

*That saved a wretch like me.*

*I once was lost, but now am found,*

*Was blind but now I see…*

a. In this song, what words show a change that has happened to this man? *In threes*

b. Have you ever been lost? What happened? How did you feel when you were found? *In pairs*

b. When you read the words of this song, what feelings does John Newton express? *In threes*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - relief  - joy  - happiness  - regret | - -remorse  - amazement  - gratefulness  - 0ther… |

c. Have you ever experienced this kind of grace in your life? *In threes.*

4. John Newton turned to God to save him. This is what God promises John Newton and us in the bible (Ephesians 2: 4-5)!

*“God is merciful! We were dead because of our sins,( all the bad things we have thought, said and done), but God loved us so much that he made us alive with Jesus Christ, and God’s wonderful kindness and grace is what saves us.”*

**Vocabulary**

**Slave:** a person who is owned by someone else.

**Unspeakable:** So bad, you cannot talk about it

**Wretch**: a terrible person

**Relief:** feeling happy that a burden has been taken away.

**Regret**: sadness over something that has happened. The person wishes it had never happened.

**Remorse**: a strong feeling of regret. Feeling very sorry for something bad that has been done.

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English Corner

**The Story – Jesus and Zacchaeus the Tax Collector *(Luke 19:1-10)***

**End of Financial Year**

This week is the end of the financial year. In all the shops, there are the end of financial year sales. Businesses are busy getting ready to put in their tax returns.

**Hot Topics**

1**.** How much tax do you pay in your country? Do you have different tax rates?

2. Why do we pay taxes? Do you think tax rates should be higher or lower? Why or why not?

3. Australia has very strict tax laws. People are worried about ‘The Tax Man’. A popular saying in English is: *One thing certain in life is death and taxes*. What does this mean?

**Today’s Lesson…**

Today’s story is from the Bible and is about a Taxman and Jesus. The time of this story is around 2000 years ago and is set in Jericho, a town near Jerusalem in the country of Israel. At that time, Israel was ruled by a foreign country, Rome. The Romans made the Tax Collectors take a lot of money from the Israeli people to give to the Roman government. The Tax Collectors were seen as traitors to their own people. The Tax Collectors were friends with the enemy!

**Vocabulary**

**Sinner**: having done bad or wrong things against God.

**Grumbling**: Complaining about something. Not happy.

**Traitor**: Someone who betrays another.

**Passing through**: Going through, travelling through.

**Crowd**: many people.

**Cheated**: not being honest, tricking someone.

**Belongings**: Things that belong to you.

**reak your group into four. Give each group member one of the following parts:** Narrator, Jesus, Grumbling person, and Zacchaeus the tax collector.

1. Read through once. Check for new vocabulary and understanding.

2. Read the story again this time acting out the story to check for understanding and practice your listening skills.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Jesus The Story** (*act out while the story is being told)*

**Narrator:** Jesus was passing through the town of Jericho. There was a tax collector named Zacchaeus, who was very rich. He was trying to see Jesus (because he had heard about the amazing things Jesus had said and done) but he was a small man and could not see Jesus because of the crowd. So he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a tree to see Jesus. When Jesus got there, Jesus looked up and said:

**Jesus:** Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to visit your house today.

**Narrator:** Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Jesus with great joy. (Pause)

All the people who saw that Jesus was going to the tax collector’s house started grumbling and complaining.

**Grumbling Person**: This man Zacchaeus is a bad man, a sinner! And Jesus is going home to eat with him.

**Narrator:** Later that day, Zacchaeus stood up and said to Jesus:

**Zacchaeus:** Jesus! I will give half of my belongings to the poor. And now I’ll pay back four times to everyone I have cheated.

**Narrator**: Jesus said to Zacchaeus:

**Jesus**: Today you and your family have been saved. I, Jesus have come to look for and save people who are lost.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The teacher will now interview each person.**

1. (to the grumbling person): What did you think about the tax collector? Why?
2. (to the tax collector): How did you feel when Jesus said he was coming to your house to stay? What happened to you?
3. (to Jesus): Why did you stop and stay at Zacchaeus’ house?

**Discussion: (in threes)**

* + What have you learnt from this story?
  + What have you learnt about the Tax collecter? The grumbling man? And Jesus?
  + Zacchaeus’ life changed dramatically after he met Jesus. Has there been any person who has changed your life dramatically? *Talk in threes*.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **July** | | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Text** | **Theme** | **Warm-Up/Introduction** |
| 1/07 | The Pharisee and the Tax Collector | Luke 18:9-14 | NAIDOC Week  Spiritual pride | Have 10 internationally famous people and groups have to order from best to worst. |
| 8/07 | Faith - Ramadan | Heb 11:1 | Everyone has faith but in what? | Display pictures around the room of famous people. Ask students to stand next to a picture. Barak Obama, Mother Teresa, Tom Cruise etc. Who do students have faith in? Why or why not? They can discuss and then move onto the next picture. |
| 15/07 | Good News!  Phillip and the Ethiopian | Acts 8:26 – 36 | Gaining understanding and good news | Students try and teach each other to say hello in their language |
| 22/07 | Sleep | Phil 4:4-7 | Sleep and stress | Find ‘Someone Who’ questionnaire:  Find someone who sleeps more than 8 hours. Find someone who has fallen asleep on public transport and missed his or her stop. Find someone who listens to music to go to sleep. Find someone who talks or walks in their sleep. Find someone who is a light sleeper. (other) |
| 29/7 | Language Learning | Col 3:23 | Who are you studying/working for? | Fill out the Language Learning Style questionnaire. |
| **Events** | | | | |
| * Christmas in July | | | | |

English Corner

**The Story – The Pharisee and the Tax Collector *(Luke 18:9-14)***

**NAIDOC Week**

This is NAIDOC week in Australia, (**N**ational **A**boriginal and **I**slander **D**ay of **C**elebration). NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated by Australians from all walks of life.

**Hot Topics**

1. What do you know about Aboriginal (indigenous) people in Australia?

2.Who are the Aboriginal (indigenous) peoples of your country?

3. What are the relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous people in Australia and in your country like?

**Today’s Lesson…**

Often the majority group of people in a country can think they have more power and may feel superior to those people from minority groups. Similarly, people can think they are better than others and look down upon everyone else.

Today’s story is from the Bible and is about two different people, a tax collector and a Pharisee (a religious leader).

**Vocabulary**

**Superior:** To be better than

**Pharisee:** a religious leader

**Sinner**: having done bad or wrong things against God.

**Humble**: opposite of proud. To think about yourself honestly.

**Pity on me**: Be kind to me even though I am not good.

**Break your group into four. Give each group member one of the following parts:** Narrator, Jesus, Pharisee, and tax collector.

1. Read through once. Check for new vocabulary and understanding.

2. Read the story again this time acting out the story to check for understanding and practice your listening skills.

**The Story** (*act out while the story is being told)*

**Narrator:** Jesus toldsome people who thought they were better than others and who looked down on everyone else.

**Jesus:** Two men went into the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee a religious leader and the other man a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed:

**Pharisee**: God, I thank you that I am not greedy, dishonest, and unfaithful in marriage like other people. And I’m glad that I’m not like the tax collector over there. I go without eating for two days a week, and I give you one tenth of all the money I earn.

**Jesus**: But the tax collector stood off at a distance and didn’t think he was even good enough even to look up towards heaven. He was so sorry for what he had done that he pounded his chest and prayed:

**Tax Collector**: God, have pity on me! I am such a sinner a bad person!

**Narrator**: Then Jesus said

**Jesus**: When the two men went home, it was the tax collector and not the Pharisee who was pleasing to God. If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be made great.

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**The teacher will now interview each person.**

1. to the Pharisee) What did you think about the tax collector? Why? What is your reaction to Jesus’ words*? “If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself you will be made great.”*
2. (to the tax collector): How were you feeling when you were at the temple? What is your reaction to Jesus’ words? *“If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself you will be made great.”*

**Discussion: (in threes)**

What have you learnt from this story today?

Who can you tell this story to? (practice retelling the story in pairs)

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**The many meanings of FAITH**

**FAITH (noun). TRUST. The belief that someone or something is good, right, and able to be trusted.** *Have faith in me. I won’t let you down.*

**FAITH (noun). STRONG BELIEF. Strong belief in God.** *Throughout her illness she never lost faith in God.*

**FAITHFUL (adjective). RELATIONSHIP: If your husband, wife or partner is faithful, they do not have a sexual relationship with anyone else***. They remained faithful to one another throughout their marriage.*

**FAITHFUL (adjective). LOYAL. Always loyal***. His trusted and faithful friend.*

This month is Ramadan. Muslims around the world will be fasting each day for 30 days. Muslims have *faith* that during this time they can get closer to Allah. This week’s topic focuses on the word:

***Faith****.*

**Hot Topics**

1. Is Ramadan celebrated in your country? What happens during Ramadan?
2. Around the time of Ramadan, many Muslims say they have special dreams. Have you ever had a special dream or spiritual experience?
3. In pairs, describe a person whom you have *faith* in. How do you know you can trust them?
4. Can you think of a time when you lost *faith* in someone? What happened? *In threes*
5. Is it possible to remain *faithful* to your husband/wife for the whole of your marriage?
6. Since being away from home. Who has been a faithful friend to you? What have they done?

7. The Bible defines *faith* as:

“*Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”*

Who do you have *faith* in:

1. political leaders?
2. parents?
3. employer?
4. friends?
5. God?

**Vocabulary**

**Ramadan**: A Muslim festival where Muslims around the world stop eating from sunrise to sunset.

**Certain**: no doubt, completely sure.

**Evolution**: A theory that describes how the world began.

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**The many meanings of FAITH**

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**ENGLISH CORNER**

**Good News!**

Today’s story is about good news. It is about a traveller who found some good news that changed his life.

**Hot Topics**

1. What good news have you had recently? Have you found a job or a good share house…?

2. When you read something you cannot understand, do you:

a. Ignore it

b. Look up your dictionary

c. Read other sentences around it to try to understand

d. Ask somebody to help you

e. Other….

*Practice in pairs asking someone to explain something to you that you can’t understand. For example, ‘Excuse me what does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mean?”*

**Today’s Lesson…**

Today’s story is from the Bible and it is about two travelers.

Today you get to be actors and actresses – a great way to practice your reading and expression!

**Introduction**

The time of this story is around 70 AD after the death of Jesus, when Jesus’ followers were going around and telling people about the Good News – the reason for Jesus’ birth, life and death. Read and find out why this was such Good News.

**Choose six people to act out the following parts:** Narrator, Angel, Holy Spirit, Oly Spirit Philip, Ethiopian, and Isaiah

1. Read through once. Check for new vocabulary and understanding. 2. Read the story again this time acting out the story to check for understanding and practice your listening skills. 3. Interview (see discussion section for interview questions)

**The Story** (Acts 8:26 – 36)*(act out as you read)*

**Narrator:** An Angel of God said to Philip:

**Angel:** Go south along the desert road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza.

**Narrator:** This road is in the desert. So Philip got ready and went.

Now an important Ethiopian official happened to be going along that road in his chariot. The Ethiopian was the chief treasurer for the Queen of Ethiopia. The official had gone to Jerusalem to worship God and was now on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot, reading from Isaiah (a book written by the prophet Isaiah before the birth of Jesus found in the bible).

The Holy Spirit said to Peter:

**Holy Spirit:** Catch up to that chariot.

**Narrator:** Phillip ran over and heard the Ethiopian reading from the book of Isaiah. Philip asked him:

**Phillip:** Do you understand what you are reading?

**Ethiopian**: No. How can I understand unless someone helps me?

**Narrator**: And he invited Phillip to climb up and sit in the chariot with him. The official was reading from the book of Isaiah. In this book, the prophet Isaiah talks about God’s future saviour for the world. It reads:

**Isaiah**: He (God’s saviour) was like a sheep on its way to be killed. He was silent as a lamb whose wool is being shorn, and he didn’t say a word. He was treated like a nobody and didn’t receive a fair trial…

**Narrator:** The official asked Phillip:

**Ethiopian** Tell me who was Isaiah talking about? Himself or about someone else?

**Narrator:** So Philip began at this place in the bible and explained the Good News about Jesus, the saviour of the world.

**Discussion**

1. Draw a timeline of the story. Discuss as a group

2. God planned for Philip to travel on the desert road. Who plans your life? *Discuss in threes:* a. you b. other people/family/friends c. fate or luck d. work e. God

3. What is the Good News about Jesus? *In threes discuss*

4. The teacher will now show you an example (*The Book example*) explaining the Good News.

5. Who can you tell this good news to?

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Vocabulary**

**Desert:** a dry place

**Catch up to:** Go up to

**Prophet**: a messenger of God, someone who predicts the future.

**Saviour**: someone who saves.

**Shorn**: wool that is cut.

**Didn’t receive a fair trial:** The Saviour was taken to court but not treated well or justly/fairly.

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**SLEEP**

**Dream:** *noun*: 1. A series of events and images that happen in your mind while you are sleeping. *Example: I had a very strange dream last night.*

**HOT TOPICS**

When you live in another country – there are many differences and this can be quite stressful on your body. This stress can affect your sleep. This discussion is about dreams and sleep and dealing with stress.

**Dream/Sleep**

1. Share about a time you

a) nodded off

b) slept in very late

c) crashed: went to bed very early and slept for a long time

1. Read, as a group, through the following responses and then role play someone who is desperate for a rest.

*P1:What do you want to do this afternoon?*

P2: I am feeling a little bit tired (weary/jaded) so….

(Choose one)

*a) I might go and have a (cat) nap*

*b) I might go and have forty winks*

*c) I might go and have a lie down*

*d) I might go and have a short sleep*

*e) I might just put my feet up for a little while*

*f)  I might catch up on some sleep*

1. Do you think you sleep:
2. Too much
3. Not enough
4. Just right
5. How much sleep do you get each night (on average)? Is this more or less than when you were in your country?
6. What sleep differences have you noticed between people from your country and Australians?
7. Do you believe that dreams can help solve our problems? Do you try and understand the meanings of your dreams?
8. *Often we are not happy with the amount of sleep we get. The quality of sleep can be affected by many things - Strange environment – bed, house, noise; stress or being anxious about our life.*
9. In Australia what affects your sleep?
10. What are you worried about at the moment?

In the book of Philippians, in the Bible it is written:

‘Always be glad because of God! I say it again: Be glad. Always be gentle with others. Don’t worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God.

Write down some of your worried thoughts: E.g., ‘I will never improve my English”; “I will never find a good person to marry”. Now turn these thoughts into prayers, and give them to God.

For example: *God please help me to….*

**Vocabulary**

**Stress**: feelings of worry caused by difficult things.

**Affect**: To influence someone or something, or cause to change.

**Insomnia**: when you find it difficult to sleep.

**Worr**y: to think about problems in a way that makes you feel anxious.

**Anxious**: worried and nervous.

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

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**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**Perseverance – Language Learning**

**Perseverance**: *noun:* when you persevere. To study English you have to have a lot of **perseverance.**

**Persevere:** *Verb*: to continue to try to do something even though it is difficult. Despite the difficulties with studying English, I decided to **persevere** and keep going.

1. Ask and answer the following questions.
2. On a piece of paper draw a graph of your English study since you came to Australia.

On the x-axis record your feelings/motivation and on the y-axis the length of time studying in Australia - in weeks or months. Discuss your graph with a partner.

**b**) It is very normal to sometimes feel down about your study. When you first arrived in Australia, everything was new and exciting. You couldn’t wait to begin studying English. After 2-3 months, Australia is no longer exciting. Life becomes routine. You can lose your motivation to study English and to meet new people. Some of you may be feeling: low or frustrated or depressed about your study.

1. What can someone do when they lose their

motivation to study? Give some suggestions:

You could…….

Why don’t you……

Have you tried……..

1. Sometimes finding different ways to study can help you keep motivated. Share with your group some ideas for practicing your
2. Speaking
3. Listening
4. Writing
5. Reading
6. Difficult times can help grow us as people. Read the following passage from the Bible (*Romans 5:3-5*).

“We know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts.

1. Name some different ways people can suffer.
2. How does suffering produce perseverance?
3. How are you developing perseverance in Australia?

**Vocabulary**

**suffering**: *noun:* when someone experiences pain or unpleasant emotions.

**character**: *noun*. Strength of personality

**hope: noun**. A positive feeling about the future.

**disappoint**: *noun*. To make someone feel unhappy because someone or something was not as good as they had expected.

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

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| **August** | | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Text** | **Theme** | **Warm-Up/Introduction** |
| 5/08 | Leaving Home - the Prodigal Son | Lk 15:11-31 | God’s grace, love and forgiveness | Have you ever been lost? |
| 12/08 | The Farmer | Mt 13:1-23 | People will respond differently to spiritual truth | Students are given an animal – they close their eyes and make the animal noise and find their animal group e.g cows, frogs, pigs, cats, dogs. |
| 19/08 | Money and Materialism | Luke 12:13-21 | True Life | How much does a can of coke cost in each country – compare prices of coke in different countries |
| 26/08 | Father’s Day | Romans 8:15 | God is our Father | Students can draw a picture of a typical father and write down some adjectives to describe a father. |
| **Events** | | | | |
|  | | | | |

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R**

**Learning English Through Discussion**

**Leaving Home**

**Hot Topics**

1. Why did you decide to travel overseas?

2. What did your friends and family think about your travel/study plans? (In threes discuss).

3. Is your lifestyle in Brisbane the same as back home? How is it similar or different? (in pairs).

**Today’s Lesson…**

Today you get to be actors and actresses – a great way to practice your reading and expression! In today’s lesson you are going to find out what happened when a younger son asked his father for money to go abroad.

**Time**: 2000 years ago

**Setting**: Jesus is telling a story about a father who had two sons.

**Vocabulary**

**My share of the property:** Give me part of the land, house, objects that belong to me.

**Wasted:** a bad use of something, such as time or money when there isn’t much of it**.**

**Reckless living:**  living in a way that is reckless – not caring what might happen to you. Drinking too much, spending too much money etc.

**Famine:** when people living in an area do not have enough food to eat.

**He came to his senses**: to start to understand that you are behaving stupidly.

**Starving to death:** Don’t have enough to eat.

**Calf:** a young cow.

**Let the Story Begin!!**

**Choose six people to read the following parts:** Narrator, Jesus, Younger Son, Father, Elder Son, and servant.

1. Read through once – checking for new vocabulary.
2. Read story again this time acting out the story to check for understanding.
3. Interview the people in the story (see discussion section for interview questions)

**Jesus**: There was once a man who had two sons. The younger one said to him:

**Younger**: Father, give me my share of the property now. **Son**

**Jesus**: So the man divided his property between his two sons. After a few days, the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. He spent all the money. Then there was a severe famine in the country, and he was left without a thing. So he went to find a job. He went to a farm and fed pigs. He was so hungry he wished he could eat the pig’s food. At last he came to his senses.

**Younger**: All my father’s workers have enough to eat, and here I am starving to **Son** death! I will get up and go to my father and say: Father I have sinned against God and you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son treat me as one of your workers.

**Jesus**: So the younger son got up and went back to his father. He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms around his son and kissed him. The son said:

**Younger**: Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer **Son** good enough to be called your son.

**Father**: (to the servant). Hurry bring the best clothes and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Then go and get the best calf and kill it, and let us have a celebration! For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost but now he is found.

**Jesus**: In the meantime the elder son was out working in the field. He heard the music and dancing. So he called one of the servants.

**Elder** **son**: What’s going on?

**Servant**: Your younger brother has come back home and your father is celebrating, because your brother has returned.

**Jesus**: The elder brother was so angry that he could not go into the house; so his father begged him to come in. But the elder son said:

**Elder son**: Look, all these years I have worked hard for you, and I have never been bad. What have you given me? But this son has wasted all your money on prostitutes, and when he comes home you kill the best calf for him!

**Father**: My son, you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. But we have to celebrate and be happy, because your brother was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.

**Interview Questions - The teacher will now interview the actors.**

***Younger Son*:** What did you ask your father for? What did you do in the other city? Why did you decide to go back home?

***Father*:** Why did you give your son his share of the property? How did you feel when he left home? Your son spent all your money – why did you celebrate his return?

***Elder son***: How did you feel when your brother returned?

**Discussion:**

1. In the story the father says to the younger son: You were dead but now you are alive. You were lost but now you have been found. Was the son really dead? Why did the Father say it?

2. Jesus told this story to explain about God the father’s relationship with us. We are like the son who left home. If God is like the father in this story – what kind of welcome can we expect?

3. Has your relationship with your family changed since you have been in Australia? How?

**ENGLISH CORNER**

### Your Heart…….

**Hot Topics**

The Brisbane Ekka begins this week! For 10 days, the country comes to the city. In celebration of the Ekka, this week’s English Corner story is about the country and a farmer.

1. Are you a city slicker or a country bumpkin?
2. Have you ever worked on a farm?
3. What are the major crops produced in your country?
4. What problems do farmers have in your country?

**Today’s Lesson…**

Today’s story is about a farmer but it is also a story about your heart.

**Vocabulary**

**EKKA:** Exhibition. The annual Brisbane show.

**Scatter**: verb. To throw objects over an area so that they land apart from each other.

**Field**: noun. An area of land used for growing crops or keeping animals.

**Rocky**: adjective. With lots of rocks.

**Choked**. If something is being choked it stops breathing or living

##### The Story

Choose 5 people to read out the different voices. You may want to break your group into 2 if you have large numbers.

****

###### The Farmer ***Mathew 13:1-23.***

**Voice 1:** Now listen! A farmer went out to **scatter** seed in a **field**. While the farmer was scattering the seed,

**Voice 2:** some of it fell along the road and was eaten by birds.

**Voice 3:** Other seed fell on thin, **rocky** ground and quickly started growing because the soil wasn’t very deep. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched and dried up, because they did not have enough roots.

**Voice 4:** Some other seeds fell where thorn bushes grew up and choked out the plants. So they did not produce any grain.

**Voice 5:** But a few seeds did fall on the good ground where the plants grew and produced thirty or sixty or even a hundred times as much as was scattered.

**Voice 1:** Then Jesus said, “Listen, then, if you have ears!” Then Jesus told them: If you don’t understand this story, you won’t understand any other. The farmer sows God’s message.

**Voice 2: The seeds that fall along the road** are the people who hear God’s message. But **Satan** soon comes and takes it away.

**Voice 3:** **The seeds that fall on rocky ground** are the people who gladly hear the message and accept it straight away. But they don’t have any roots, and they don’t last long. As soon as life gets hard or the message gets them into trouble, they give up.

**Voice 4:** **The seeds that fell among the thorn bushes** are also people who hear the message. But they start worrying about the needs of this life. They are fooled by the desire to get rich and to have all kinds of other things. So the message gets choked out, and they never produce anything.

**Voice 5:** **The seeds that fell on good ground** are the people who hear the message and accept it. They produce thirty or sixty or even a hundred times as much as was planted.”

**Divide into groups of 4. Each person chooses a part of the story to draw (see Table below) Then take turns, explaining the whole story using the pictures that you have drawn.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1**. A farmer scattered some seeds on a path. The Birds ate the seed. *(Voice 2)* | **3**. Other seeds fell among thorn bushes and the thorn bushes choked the plants.*(Voice 4).* |
| **2**. Some seeds fell on rocky ground. The seeds grew but the sun burned the plants and they dried up*. (Voice 3)* | **4**. But some seeds fell in good soil and the plants sprouted, grew and produced grain. *(Voice 5)* |

**Discussion**

The story of the seeds has a deeper meaning. It is about different ways people respond to hearing God’s message. God’s message is found in the Bible.

1. Look at the first picture. What does the message of God mean to these people?

2. Look at the second picture. These people accept God’s message but what happens to these people when life gets hard?

3. Look at the third picture. Why don’t these people produce fruit?

4. Look at the fourth picture. Why do these people produce so much fruit?

5. Which picture best describes you? Which picture would you like to be?

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**Money and Materialism**

*Match the Money Idioms with the right definition (in pairs)*

**Money Idioms Definition**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| cheapskate | have lots of money |
| chicken feed | pay the bill |
| flat broke | a person who will not spend much money |
| loaded | have no money |
| on a shoestring | feel wonderful |
| pick up the tab | spend a lot of money for something |
| splurge | a small amount of money |
| feel like a million dollars | with little money to spend, on a very low budget |

**Hot Topics**

1. Are you a cheapskate or do you like to splurge? (*in large group*).
2. When have you felt like a million dollars? (*in pairs*).
3. In your country who picks up the tab when you go out to eat? (*in large group).*
4. Who are the rich people in this world? What makes them rich?
5. Why are some people poor? (*in pairs*)
6. They are lazy
7. They are experiencing a natural disaster
8. Bad luck
9. God is punishing them
10. It is their destiny
11. The greed and sin of this world
12. Other…

6. There is a story in the Bible (Luke 12:13-21) that Jesus taught about riches. It is called ***The story of the rich man.*** *You need people to read the parts of Jesus, narrator, God and the rich man.*

**Jesus**: Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind   
 of greed; because a person’s true life is not made   
 up of the things he owns, no matter how rich he is.

**Narrator**: Then Jesus told them this story:

**Jesus**: There was once a rich man who had land, which   
 grew good crops. He began to think to himself:

**Rich man**: I haven’t anywhere to keep all my crops. What   
 can I do? This is what I will do; I will tear down my   
 barns and build bigger ones, where I will store   
 corn and other goods. Then I will say to myself,   
 ‘Lucky man! You have all the good things you   
 need for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink,   
 and enjoy yourself!’

**Narrator**: But God said to him:

**God**: You fool! This very night you will have to give up   
 your life; then who will get all these things you have   
 kept for yourself?

**Narrator**: And Jesus concluded:

**Jesus**: This is how it is with those who pile up riches for   
 themselves but are not rich in God’s sight.

1. From the story, what does the ‘true life’ mean?(*In threes).*
2. How can we be ‘rich in God’s sight’? (*large group).*

**Vocabulary**

**Guard:** be ready to deal with something difficult.

**Wealth**: when someone has a lot of money.

**Crops:** plants grown in large numbers like wheat or oats.

**Goods**: things he owns, like wheat or oats.

**Barns:** largeshed to store things in.

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*Learning English Through Discussion*

**FATHER’S DAY**

**This Sunday is Father’s Day in Australia. It is a time children give gifts and spend time with their fathers. Today our discussion topic is about fathers!**

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Do you celebrate Father’s Day in your country? How do you celebrate Father’s day? What do you do? What are some typical gifts people give their father?
2. *(In threes)* In your country what things does a father do (in the home and outside the home)?
3. What characteristics are usually used to describe a father?

* Gentle
* Kind
* Strict
* Stubborn
* Proud
* Strong
* Smart
* Leader
* Hard-working
* Other…

1. *(In different threes)* In your country, what role does a father have in parenting? Is it similar or dissimilar to fathers you have seen in Australia?
2. *(In pairs*) Describe your father. What does he look like? What does he do? What is his personality?
3. How are you like (similar to your father) how are you different?
4. *(Divide your group into girls and guys)*

Girls: If you get married – what kind of father do you want your husband to be?

Boys: If you get married what kind of father do you want to be?

Tim Mander, a famous Rugby League referee, was named ‘Queensland Father of the Year 2005’. He was asked: “What is the most important thing about being a father?

Tim Mander answered:

“I think the most important thing about being a father is ***showing unconditional love***. My belief in God is central in my life and plays an important part in how we raise our children.”

1. What is unconditional love? Is it possible? Have you ever been loved unconditionally?
2. (In pairs). Tim Mander is a Christian. Christians believe that God is ‘Abba’ Father – which means Daddy. If you believe in God, do you see God as your Dad? A God who loves you unconditionally? Why or Why not?

**Vocabulary:**

***Stubborn***: determined not to change your ideas, plans etc. ***Strict*** makes sure children or people working for them behave well.

***Unconditional***: done or given without asking anything in return – absolute, unlimited love.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **September** | | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Text** | **Theme** | **Warm-Up/Introduction** |
| 2/09 | Spring | Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 | A Time for Everything | You can sing the song ‘ A time for eveything’ |
| 9/09 | Moon Festival | John 11:25 - 26 | Ancestor Worship | Try and Moon Cake or look at the symbols used in the moon festival and guess their meanings |
| 16/09 | Water | John 5:1-18 | Water and its use | Water taste testing – tap water vs bottled water |
| 25/09 | Sleep | Phil 4:4-7 | Sleep and stress | Find ‘Someone Who’ questionnaire:  Find someone who sleeps more than 8 hours. Find someone who has fallen asleep on public transport and missed his or her stop. Find someone who listens to music to go to sleep. Find someone who talks or walks in their sleep. Find someone who is a light sleeper. (other) |
| 30/09 | Work | Col 3:23 | How do we approach our work? | This lesson was designed for discussion about the Labour day public holiday. Ask students who are currently working to mime their job. Other students have to guess. Or do a job pictionary activity where students are given an occupation, they have to draw the occupation and the other students guess the occupation. |
| **Events** | | | | |
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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | |  | |
| **E n g l i s h C o r n e r** | |  |  |
|  | A T I ME F OR E V E R Y T H I N G | |
|  | |  |

Hot Topics

1 . This week’s topic is about a time for everything. In Australia, Spring has arrived. A time for picnics, flowers to bloom and new life. This week also sees a time for remember September 11 and the recent killings in Syria.

When terrible things happen in our world it is hard to understand. One very wise King, a long time ago wrote about the various ‘times’ in our lives. Our life can be divided into periods of time or seasons.

For example:

Infancy—a time to explore,

Kindergarten—a time to play, Elementary school—a time to read and count...

*Complete the following*:

High school—a time for……., University—a time for……, Military service—a time for…., Holidays—a time for….,

Coming to Australia—a time for...

What’s next—a time for…?

2. Every time in life has its challenges and opportunities. What opportunities are you facing? What challenges are you facing?

3. Looking back over your life: What has been the best time in your life so far? Why?

4. What has been the worst time? Why?

**Discuss the underlined words, and then read the story.**

**uproot**—to tear or pull up by the roots

**mourn**—to grieve or feel sorrow, especially for a dead person

**embrace**—to hug or to take closely into ones arms

**refrain**—to keep oneself from doing or saying something

**King Solomon**—one the richest and wisest men who ever lived. King of Israel 1015-975 B.C. He wrote many wise sayings.

**tear**—to pull apart with force or violence

**mend**—to repair and get something back into working order

**misfortune**—bad luckK I NG S OLOMON W R O TE T H ESE W OR DS 30 00 Y E ARS A GO ...

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven:



A time to be born and a time to die, A time to plant and a time to uproot, A time to kill and a time to heal,

A time to tear down and a time to build,

A time to weep and a time to laugh,

A time to mourn and a time to dance,

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them together,

A time to embrace and a time to refrain, A time to search and a time to give up,

A time to keep and a time to throw away, A time to tear and a time to mend,

A time to be silent and a time to speak, A time to love and a time to hate,

A time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

**Q U E S T I O N S**

1. Imagine that you are making a video clip or slide show to accompany a reading of these words—what images would you film or photograph?

2. Is it true that there is a time for everything in this life? Discuss. Think of those who die young or who meet with great misfortune.

3. Which of the statements above seem most strange to you? Why? Discuss.

4. When is it ever right to hate? Explain.

5. When is it ever right to kill? Why?

6. Some people believe that our lives are in the hands of God—and that He orders or allows whatever happens to us. How does that thought make you feel? What is required to trust in his goodness and wisdom?

IF THERE IS ENOUGH TIME, DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTION...

7. It is also written: **All things are working together for the good of those who love God**.

Do you love God, or do you know anyone who does? Discuss. What comfort can you take from these words if you love God? Would you like to have that kind of

confidence as you face the future? How can someone get to know and love God?

[www.yourenglishcorner.net](http://www.yourenglishcorner.net)

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**Festivals - Moon**

**This week many festivals are celebrated in Asia. Chinese culture celebrates the Moon Cake Festival, Japan something similar and in Korea it is their Thanksgiving festival.**

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Which festival are you celebrating this week? What would you normally do at this time back in your country?
2. In your group discuss the meaning of Moon cake festival or Thanksgiving Day.
3. At this time many families meet together and visit their ancestors’ graves. Why do they do this? What do some people think might happen if they don’t worship their ancestors?
4. In Australia we have no special ceremony for our ancestors. If somebody dies, we may visit the gravesite to remember them but not to give them anything or worship them. This probably comes from our Western culture, which has been influenced by Christian belief.

Christians believe that when you die, you either go to heaven to be with God or hell to be with the Devil. Once you have died you cannot influence or bring good or bad luck to the people living. Only God or the Devil can do that.

1. In groups of three discuss: What do you think happens to you after you die? Why?

In the Bible Jesus said: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who **believes in me** will **live**, even though he **dies;** and whoever **lives** and **believes in me** will **never die**. *John 11:25 - 26(CEV)*

1. In pairs discuss: What you think Jesus was talking about?

Vocabulary

**Ancestors:** relative or family who lived a long time ago.

**Worship:** to show respect by saying prayers or doing religious ceremonies.

**Gravesite:** a place in the ground where somebody is buried.

**Resurrection:** come alive again.

**Reincarnation:** the belief that a dead person’s spirit returns in another body – insect, animal, rich person…

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E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**Water**

Many countries have festivals around water. This month is the start of the Brisbane festival. Australia is a very dry country making water a very important resource. The festival celebrates the importance of water in our lives - In our work, our home, our play and our spirit.

**Hot topics**

1. Are there many major river/water festivals in your country? What happens at them?

2. What role does water play in your life? What do you use water for? *In threes discuss*

Everyday use e.g. drinking…

For work: e.g. manufacturing….

For recreation: e.g swimming…

For spiritual/religious ceremonies: baptism….

3. In India, Hindus believe the Ganges River is a very spiritual river. People wash themselves in the river to cleanse themselves of sin (the bad things they have done); they float their dead down the river for a smooth journey to the next life. In your country do you have a special river, spring, well, that people drink, wash in, to clean themselves of sin (bad things they have done) or to receive a blessing? *Discuss in pairs*.

Today’s story is found in the Bible, (*John 5:1-18*). They story is about a famous water pool in Jerusalem, 2000 years ago and what happened there. Break your group into threes. Assign each person a role to read out: Narrator, Jesus and Man.

**Narrator**: Jesus went to Jerusalem for a religious festival. In the city, was a water pool. Many sick, blind, paralysed people were lying close to the pool. Beside the pool was a man who had been sick for 38 years. When Jesus saw the man, he said:

**Jesus**: Do you want to be healed?

**Man**: Sir, I don’t have anyone to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up. I try to get in, but someone else always gets there first.

**Jesus**: Pick up your mat and walk!

**Narrator**: Straight away, the man was healed. He picked up his mat and started walking around.

**Discussion:**

1. In small groups, try to retell the story to each other.

2. What happened to the man? How was he healed?

3. What do you want to be healed of? *In pairs discuss.*

a. something physical – a cold, flu, sore back.

b. emotional – scared of heights, sadness, homesickness

c. spiritual – (my sins – the bad things I have done in my life)

d. other

**Vocabulary**

**Spring:** Water from underground, comes bubbling up to the top.

**Well**: A hole in the ground where people get water from.

**Baptism**: A Christian ceremony symbolizing the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. When a person becomes a Christian, they ask God to forgive all their sins – so when they go under the water, it is like their sins have been washed clean – the old life is gone. When they come up out of the water it represents their new life, following God.

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**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**SLEEP**

**Dream:** *noun*: 1. A series of events and images that happen in your mind while you are sleeping. *Example: I had a very strange dream last night.*

**HOT TOPICS**

When you live in another country – there are many differences and this can be quite stressful on your body. This stress can affect your sleep. This discussion is about dreams and sleep and dealing with stress.

**Dream/Sleep**

1. Share about a time you

a) nodded off

b) slept in very late

c) crashed: went to bed very early and slept for a long time

1. Read, as a group, through the following responses and then role play someone who is desperate for a rest.

*P1:What do you want to do this afternoon?*

P2: I am feeling a little bit tired (weary/jaded) so….

(Choose one)

*a) I might go and have a (cat) nap*

*b) I might go and have forty winks*

*c) I might go and have a lie down*

*d) I might go and have a short sleep*

*e) I might just put my feet up for a little while*

*f)  I might catch up on some sleep*

1. Do you think you sleep:
2. Too much
3. Not enough
4. Just right
5. How much sleep do you get each night (on average)? Is this more or less than when you were in your country?
6. What sleep differences have you noticed between people from your country and Australians?
7. Do you believe that dreams can help solve our problems? Do you try and understand the meanings of your dreams?
8. *Often we are not happy with the amount of sleep we get. The quality of sleep can be affected by many things - Strange environment – bed, house, noise; stress or being anxious about our life.*
9. In Australia what affects your sleep?
10. What are you worried about at the moment?

In the book of Philippians, in the Bible it is written:

‘Always be glad because of God! I say it again: Be glad. Always be gentle with others. Don’t worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God.

Write down some of your worried thoughts: E.g., ‘I will never improve my English”; “I will never find a good person to marry”. Now turn these thoughts into prayers, and give them to God.

For example: *God please help me to….*

**Vocabulary**

**Stress**: feelings of worry caused by difficult things.

**Affect**: To influence someone or something, or cause to change.

**Insomnia**: when you find it difficult to sleep.

**Worr**y: to think about problems in a way that makes you feel anxious.

**Anxious**: worried and nervous.

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

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3. Not enough
4. Just right
5. How much sleep do you get each night (on average)? Is this more or less than when you were in your country?
6. What sleep differences have you noticed between people from your country and Australians?
7. Do you believe that dreams can help solve our problems? Do you try and understand the meanings of your dreams?
8. *Often we are not happy with the amount of sleep we get. The quality of sleep can be affected by many things - Strange environment – bed, house, noise; stress or being anxious about our life.*
9. In Australia what affects your sleep?
10. What are you worried about at the moment?

In the book of Philippians, in the Bible it is written:

‘Always be glad because of God! I say it again: Be glad. Always be gentle with others. Don’t worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God.

Write down some of your worried thoughts: E.g., ‘I will never improve my English”; “I will never find a good person to marry”. Now turn these thoughts into prayers, and give them to God.

For example: *God please help me to….*

**Vocabulary**

**Stress**: feelings of worry caused by difficult things.

**Affect**: To influence someone or something, or cause to change.

**Insomnia**: when you find it difficult to sleep.

**Worr**y: to think about problems in a way that makes you feel anxious.

**Anxious**: worried and nervous.

E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**WORK – Labour Day**

**Work**.Job To do a job. Akiko *works* at the Sushi Station.

**Work.** Succeed. Her plan to make friends with people from different countries *worked*.

**Work**. Effort. To do something that needs a lot of time and effort. You have to *work* hard to study English.

**Labour Day** is an annual holiday celebrated all over the world. It remembers the efforts of the labour union movement and celebrates the economic and social achievements of workers. Labour Day began in Melbourne on 21 April 1856. Stonemasons and building workers stopped worked and marched to ask for an eight hour working day. They were successful and were the first organised group to achieve an eight-hour day with no loss of pay.

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Do you have Labour day in your country? What are the typical working hours in your country?

***The many meanings of work…..***

***Work (Job)***

1. Do you have a job? If yes, what work do you do? How are the working conditions similar or different from in your country? If no, what kind of work are you looking for? (*try and pair up with someone who works and someone looking for work).*
2. Do people in Australia work harder than in your country? Compare work hours*.(In threes discuss)*
3. What kind of job do you want to do when you return home? Is it similar to your parents’ work? (*in pairs)*
4. Are you being paid fairly?

**Work (Succeed)**

1. What are you plans for your time in Brisbane?

1. Learn English?
2. Meet international and Aussie friends?
3. Get a job?
4. Travel?
5. Experience new things?
6. Think about your life and purpose?
7. Change your life?

Have your plans **worked** out? What is stopping you reaching all your plans? E.g. being anxious, afraid to make mistakes,

*( in different pairs*).

**Work(effort)**

1. How much **work** do you put into:
   1. Studying English?
   2. Meeting new people?
   3. Going to new places?

Do you ever feel like giving up? How do you keep going?

*(in threes discuss*).

**Work (Attitude)**

Many people learning English have to find a part-time job. They do work they have never done in their own country – cleaning, farm work, kitchen hand, waitress. These jobs can be very hard. An important way to survive in these jobs is having a good attitude. In the Bible it describes a good attitude towards work as:

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as if you were serving God, not just your employer. For it is Jesus whom you are serving.(*Colossians 3.23 CEV)

1. How can we approach our work?

E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U

*Learning English Through Discussion*

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|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **October** | | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Text** | **Theme** | **Warm-Up/Introduction** |
| 7/10 | Global Warming | Romans 3:23  1 John 1:9 | An Inconvenient Truth | Have students say 2 things about themselves. One is true and one is false. Students have to try and guess which one is true. |
| 14/10 | Hospitality and Forgiveness  The Pharisee and the Woman | Lk 7:36-50 | Debt and forgiveness | Hospitality customs in different countries. Different ways of greeting. |
| 21/10 | Fear- Halloween | Ps 34:4-5 | Escape from Fear | The topic of fear can be adapted to many different situation students may be facing at different times. Issues of health or cultural festivals like Halloween, which are based around the idea of fear, can all be a reason to introduce this topic. |
| 28/10 | Determination – The Great Race | Heb 12:1-3 | The race of life | Place students into groups. Ask them to select one student to be their representative in the race. Ask some Yes/No questions. If the racing students answer correctly they can move forward one step, incorrectly move back one step. Questions can be about the particular race (Melbourne Cup, Olympics etc) or about famous sporting heroes etc. |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Events** | | | | |
| * Trip to Sandgate for fish and chips and walk along the jetty | | | | |

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**An Inconvenient Truth**

Today’s topic is about inconvenient truths facing us today and how we respond to them.

1. Tell your partner two things that are true about yourself and one thing that is not true and ask them which one is not true.
2. Which of the following statements do you think are true:

* The air is getting cleaner in my country
* People are getting smarter
* The English soccer team is getting better
* Summers in my country are getting hotter
* You are perfect

1. Have you seen the following movies? Discuss

* Inconvenient Truth
* The Day After Tomorrow
* 2012

**Inconvenient Truth 1: Global Warming**

The Movie *Inconvenient Truth* made some claims about global warming. In small groups read and discuss each claim.

**a. We will have more heat waves.** What are the hottest (maximum) temperatures in your country? Is your city getting warmer? **b. Global sea levels could rise by more than 20 feet (6 metres) with the loss of shelf ice in Greenland and Antarctica.** Would your country be affected if the sea level rose more than 6 metres? What other countries in the world may be effected? How should the world respond? **c. The number of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes have almost doubled in the last year.** Have you experienced a hurricane or typhoon? What happened? Are hurricanes/cyclones increasing in your country?

**Inconvenient Truth 2: Carbon Tax**

A big debate is happening in Australia at the moment – should we put a carbon tax on the top 500 companies who are use the most carbon (the biggest polluters).

a. What do you know about carbon tax?

b. Does your country have a carbon tax?

c. What are some advantages for carbon tax?

d. What are some disadvantages for carbon tax?

Divide your group into two groups and prepare a mini-debate on the topic:

**Group 1: There should be a carbon tax on big companies**

*I think there should be a carbon tax because……*

**Group 2: There shouldn’t be a carbon tax on big companies**

*I don’t think there should be a carbon tax because…*

**Inconvenient Truth 3: We are not perfect**.

We all know we are not perfect. This is an inconvenient truth. Think about this passage in the Bible: All of us have sinned (done or thought bad things) and fall short of God’s Glory (Romans 3:23). How do you deal with this inconvenient truth? Choose one or more

* 1. Try to forget all the bad things I have done…
  2. Try and do extra good things to balance the bad things I do.
  3. Try to always be good…
  4. Ask God for forgiveness…
  5. other

**A solution to this problem**: In the Bible (1 John 1:9), it also says: “if we confess our sins to God, he will forgive us and take our sins away.” In pairs, what is one thing you have done wrong this week? What can you do about it or what have you done about it?

**Vocabulary**

**Inconvenient**: (adjective). Causing difficulty, such as unexpected delays.

**Carbon Tax:** A carbon tax is a tax on the burning of fuels such as coal, gas, and oil.

**Forgiveness**: to decide not to be angry with someone or punish them. To forgive someone.

**Confess**: Admit something.

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

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**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**HOSPITALITY & FORGIVENESS**

**HOT TOPICS**

It is International Women’s Day on Tuesday, March 8th. Discuss: In your country:

1. What is the role of women? How has this role changed over the last 20 years? How would you like the role of women to change in the next 10 years?

*Today’s English Corner we will look at a famous story from the Bible about a woman and how she found forgiveness and acceptance from Jesus. To understand this story better, we first need to discuss how hospitality is shown to strangers.*

1. Have you felt welcomed in Australia? How have people made you feel welcome or not welcome? What did they do? (*Discuss in pairs*)

2. How are foreigners received or welcomed in your country? Did you ever have any foreigners for dinner in your country? (*Discuss in threes*)

3. Have you been to an Australian house for dinner? Was the hospitality different than in your country? (*Discuss in two groups*)

4. Today we are going to look at a story in the Bible from Luke 7:36-50. It is about hospitality and forgiveness. You will be the actors so that you can practice your reading and expression!

**The Story:**

Read through the story twice. After the first time, work out any words you don’t understand. The second time read with expression!

**Choose a role:**   
Narrator, Simon, Woman, Jesus and the Guest.

**Setting**: It is set in the Middle East, in the house of Simon a Pharisee (a Jewish priest), eating a meal. Simon had heard about the famous teacher called Jesus and invited him for dinner. A woman turns up. Read to see what happens!

**VOCABULARY**

**Pharisee:** a religious leader

**Prostitute:** someone who sells their body for sex.

**Sinful**: having done bad or wrong things against God.

**Prophet**: someone sent by God to tell people what to do, or say what will happen in the future.

**Owe**: to have to pay money back to someone

**Debt**: when you owe money to someone.

**Forgiven**: to restore a relationship. Not to punish him or her for what they deserve.

**Hospitality**: welcoming guests.

**The Story – Luke 7:36 – 50 *(CEV)***

**Narrator**: A Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner with him. So Jesus went to the Pharisee’s home to eat. When a sinful woman in that town found out that Jesus was there, she bought an expensive bottle of perfume. Then she came and stood before Jesus. She cried and started washing his feet with her tears and drying them with her hair. The woman kissed his feet and poured the perfume on them. The Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this and said to himself:

**Simon**: If this man really were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him! He would know that she is a sinner.

**Narrator**: Jesus said to Simon, the Pharisee:

**Jesus**: Simon, I have something to say to you.

**Simon**: Teacher, what is it?

**Jesus**: Two people were in debt to a money lender. One of them owed him 500 silver coins, and the other owed him 50. Since neither of them could pay him back, the moneylender said that they didn't have to pay him anything. Which one of them will like him more?

**Simon**: I suppose it would be the one who had owed more and didn’t have to pay it back.

**Jesus**: You are right.

**Narrator**: Jesus turned towards the woman and said to Simon.

**Jesus**: Have you noticed this woman? When I came into your home, you didn’t give me any water so I could wash my feet. But she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but from the time I came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You didn’t even pour olive oil on my head, but she has poured expensive perfume on my feet. So I tell that all her sins are forgiven, and that is why she has shown great love. But anyone who has been forgiven for only a little will show only a little love.

**Narrator**: Then Jesus said to the woman.

**Jesus**: Your sins are forgiven.

**Narrator**: Some other guests started saying to one another:

**Guest**: Who is this who dares to forgive sins?

**Narrator**: But Jesus told the woman:

**Jesus**: Because of your faith, you are now saved. May God give you peace.

**Teacher to interview:**

**Simon the Pharisee**: How did you feel when the woman came and washed Jesus’ feet?

**The Woman**: Why did you wash and kiss Jesus’ feet?

**Jesus:** Why did you tell the story about the money lender?

**Discussion**

**In threes discuss:**

1. What would you do if you knew that all your sins (all the bad things you have done) could be forgiven? How would you respond? (What would you do, how would you feel?)

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**Halloween - Fear**

In a few weeks it is Halloween. The shops are selling many bats, witches, jack-o-lanterns…..So today’s topic is about Halloween and fear.

**Fear: (noun).**To be worried or frightened that something bad might happen*.*

**Hot Topics**

1. Introduce yourselves and name one thing you are afraid of. For example*, I am afraid of….because…*
2. In your country do you have Halloween or a similar festival? What do you do on that day? *In threes of different nationalities (if possible) discuss*.
3. Do you like horror movies? Why or why not? *In pairs.*
4. Do you believe in ghosts or evil spirits? *Change pairs*.
5. In your country, how do people try and control or get rid of evil spirits?

Today’s story comes from the Bible (Mark 1:21-28). It is a story about a man with an evil spirit.

*Choose 4 people to read/act out the story. Narrator, Man, Jesus, Person 1 and Person 2.*

Narrator: Jesus and his disciples came to a town and on the next   
 Sabbath Jesus went to the synagogue and began to   
 teach. The people who heard him were amazed at the   
 way he taught, for he wasn’t like the teachers of the   
 Law; instead he taught with authority. Just then a man   
 with an evil spirit in him came into the synagogue and   
 screamed:

Man: What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Are you   
 here to destroy us? I know who you are – you are   
 God’s holy messenger!

Narrator: Jesus ordered the spirit:

Jesus: Be quiet, and come out of the man!

Narrator: The evil spirit shook the man hard, gave a loud scream,   
 and came out of him. The people were all so amazed   
 they started saying to one another:

Person 1: What is this?

Person 2: Is it some kind of new teaching?

Person 1: This man has authority to give orders to the evil spirits.

Person 2: And they obey him!

Narrator: And so the news about Jesus spread quickly   
 everywhere.

**Discussion**

1. Why were people listening to Jesus amazed at Jesus’   
 teaching? *In threes discuss.*

*2. W*ho did the Evil spirits say Jesus was? What do you know   
 about Jesus? *In different threes discuss*.

**Vocabulary**

**Sabbath:** Jewish holy day once a week

**Synagogue**: Jewish temple

**Disciples**: Followers of Jesus.

**Jewish**: a Hebrew person. The main area where they live is in Israel.

**Authority**: the power to influence people because of inspiring respect, having special knowledge.

**Evil spirit**: a wicked or harmful being.

**Shook**: to move something with short quick movements from side to side or up and down

**Obey**: to do what one is told.

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E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**THE GREAT RACE**

**Determination:** noun. When someone continues trying to do something although it is very difficult.

HOT TOPICS

(Each person chooses one topic to lead a discussion on).

1. Next Tuesday is Melbourne Cup Day. The Melbourne Cup is an endurance horse race. It is 3200m or 2 miles long. To be successful the horses have to be very fit. The horse that runs with the greatest determination wins.

1. Many people gamble on horse racing. Next week millions of dollars will be spent on this race. Is gambling in your country legal or illegal? Do you agree with your country’s laws about gambling? Why or why not?
2. What kind of things do people in your country bet on? E.g. horse racing, soccer matches…
3. The Melbourne Cup is a handicap race. This means the faster horses have to carry extra weight, to give the other horses a chance of winning. Do you think this is fair?

Today’s story is about another race, the Race of Life. We need to run it with determination. Here is a reading from the Bible (Hebrews 12:1-3). It was written to Christians who were facing persecution around 2000 years ago:

**“Let us get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won’t let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us. We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete. Now he is seated at the right side of God’s throne!**

**Discussion**

1. In this Bible reading, it says, “we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won’t let go.” The Melbourne Cup horses have weights to slow them down. What are the weights in your life now? Write down a short list of the things that are slowing you down now, and then share with a partner.
2. What is the race you are running now? (E.g. becoming a good English speaker in 6 months). Are you running with determination or do you want to give up? (*discuss in groups of three)*
3. What does it mean, “We must keep our eyes on Jesus?” Who do you keep your eyes on to help you run your race?”

**Vocabulary**

**Gamble or bet**: to put money on the result of a game, race or competition

**Legal:** Allowed by law (opposite: illegal)

**Sin**: breaking the law of God; wrongdoing

**Throne**: a special chair that royalty sit on

**Insults:** say or do something to hurt somebody

**Discouraged**: to feel down, lose heart to feel sad.

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| **November** | | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Text** | **Theme** | **Warm-Up/Introduction** |
| 7/11 | Self-control and Addiction | Prov 25:28 | Root causes of addiction – living away from home – dealing with stress | (1) Break students into groups and do Pictionary, drawing different addictions, e.g. gambling, drinking, and eating. Students from each group then take turns coming up to the front, see the word then run back to their group to draw the addiction. |
| 14/11 | Jesus Heals  The Paralysed Man | Lk. 5.17-26 | Jesus is the Son of God | Teacher reads the story. As the teacher is reading, selected students and teachers listen and act out the story. |
| 21/11 | Jesus Forgives  The Woman Caught in Adultery | John 8:1-11 | Jesus brings repentance and forgiveness. | (1) Select Students to act out the story as the teacher or other student/s reads. |
| 28/11 | Jesus is God  A Life-changing Catch of Fish | Lk. 5:1-11 | Realising Jesus is God | (1) Talk about good fishing spots around Australia  (2) Talk about who is in your family and what do they do. |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Events** | | | | |
| * 7 Stories of Hope Bible Study | | | | |

**E N G L I S H C O R N E R M E N U**

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**SELF-CONTROL AND ADDICTION**

**Self-control:** noun. The ability to control your emotions and actions.

**Addiction**: noun. When you cannot stop doing or taking something because you are addicted to it.

**HOT TOPICS**

On your way to English Corner today, you might have seen many people celebrating after the Melbourne Cup Horse Race. Today millions of dollars were spent on gambling. Today’s topic is about self-control and addiction.

1. Rate the following things that people can be addicted to most harmful (1) to least harmful (12). Why? *In threes discuss:*

1. food
2. drugs
3. coffee
4. cigarettes
5. alcohol
6. shopping
7. exercise
8. gambling
9. sex
10. pornography
11. chocolate
12. relationships
13. What is the ‘drinking culture’ in your country? For example in Australia – we ‘shout’ our friends a drink. We say ‘it’s my round’. What does this mean? There is also a binge drinking culture where people drink a lot very quickly to get as drunk as possible. In your country what is the drinking culture?
14. Why do people get addicted to things?

Is it because of?

**- social** (community/family influence). For   
 example if your father drinks a lot of alcohol

you will…

* **environment** (pubs, casinos). When you walk past the casino, you decide to go in to play the pokies.
* **-or physical** (person’s genetics, personality etc.) factors? I can’t help it – the addiction is part of my personality or genes.

1. What are some common addiction problems in your country?
2. What would you say if you thought your friend was addicted to drugs, alcohol, or gambling? E.g. \_\_\_can I speak to you about something?…I am worried about the amount of time you spend (*at the Casino*)…is everything ok?
3. There are some good words of wisdom from the Bible. Read and discuss: What do they mean?

“Some of you say, ”We can do anything we want to.” But I say to you that not everything is good for us. So I refuse to let anything have power over me.” 1 Corinthian 1:12

But if we **confess** **our** **sins** to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take **our** **sins** away. James 1:9

**Vocabulary**

**Addict:** *noun.*Someone who cannot stop doing something

**Addiciton***.noun* when you cannot stop doing something

**Addicted**: *adjective*. Not able to stop taking or doing something.

**Addictive***. Adjective*. If something is addictive, it makes you want more of it.

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**Jesus Heals – The Paralysed Man**

**Introduction**

*Today we begin a series of lessons leading up to Christmas. Christmas and Easter are the two main festivals in Australia. To understand the importance of these festivals you need to know more about Jesus. Through these lessons you will learn why these festivals are so important and some important vocabulary associated with these special events. This week’s lesson is about a famous story where Jesus heals a disabled man.*

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Do you have hot springs in your country?
2. Draw a map of your country and show where the most famous hot springs are found.
3. Why do people visit hot springs? For:

a) relaxation

b) therapy

c) skin cleansing

d) spiritual reasons

**Today’s Lesson…**

***JESUS THE HEALER***

The story begins when Jesus was around 30 and began to go around teaching and healing may people.Today's story is about a paralysed man who meets Jesus.

*Choose 5 people to read out the story: Narrator, Jesus, Man, Lawyer 1, Lawyer 2.*

**Vocabulary**

**Paralysed:** cannot move

**Faith:** believing without proof; to trust

**Sin:** breaking the law of God;

wrongdoing.

**Healed:** make better

**Law:** God’s rules for living.

**Picked up**: to lift up, to carry.

**Amazed**: surprised.

**Sabbath:** Day of Rest – for Jewish people

***John 5:1-18****(CEV)*

**Narrator**: Jesus went to Jerusalem for a religious festival. He went to a pool. A large crowd of sick people were lying near the pool – the blind, the lame and the paralysed. A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. Jesus saw him lying there, and he knew that the man had been ill for such a long time; so he asked him:

**Jesus**: Do you want to get well?

**Man**: Sir, I have no one here to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am trying to get in, somebody else gets there first.

**Jesus**: Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.

**Narrator**: Immediately the man got well; he picked up his mat and started walking.

The day this happened was a Sabbath, so the Jewish authorities told the man who had been healed:

**Lawyer 1**: This is a Sabbath –

**Lawyer 2**: It is against our Law to carry your mat.

**Man**: The man who made we well told me to pick up my mat and walk.

**Lawyer 1**: Who is this man who told you to do this?

**Narrator**: But the man who had been healed did not know who Jesus was, for there was a crowd in that place, and Jesus had quietly gone away.

Afterwards, Jesus found the man in the Temple.

**Jesus**: Listen, you are well now; so stop sinning or something worse may happened to you.

**Narrator**: Then the man left and told the Jewish authorities that it was Jesus who had healed him. So they began to persecute Jesus, because he had done this healing on a Sabbath. Jesus answered them:

**Jesus (**to lawyers): My Father is always working, and I too must work.

**Narrator**: This saying made the Jewish authorities all the more determined to kill Jesus; not only had he broken the Sabbath law, but he had said that God was his own Father and in this way had made himself equal to God.

****

**Discussion**

1. What did Jesus say to the paralysed man?
2. What did the teachers of the Law think?
3. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?

**Jesus Forgives - A Woman Caught in Adultery**

**Introduction**

*Christmas and Easter are the two main festivals in Australia. Through these lessons you will learn why Christmas is so important and some vocabulary associated with this special event.*  *To understand the importance of these festivals you need to know more about Jesus and why he is so famous. Today's story is about how Jesus forgives. It is about a woman caught in adultery with a man who is not her husband and Jesus’ response to her.*

**HOT TOPICS**

1.  Match these wrong doings with the penalty.

**Wrongdoing Penalty**

1.  traffic infringement a. imprisonment

2.  overdue library book b. detention

3.  illegal tackle (football) c. penalty

4.  robbery d. deported

5.  no visa e. late fine

6.  2 yellow cards (football) f. suspension

7.  swearing at school g. capital punishment

8.  murder h. reprimand (warning)

9.  wrongdoing at work i. fine or penalty

2. Do you have capital punishment in your country? Do you agree or disagree with capital punishment? (*In threes discuss).*

**The Story**

***Choose 5 people to read the story: Narrator, Religious Leader, Lawyer, Jesus and the Woman***

**Vocabulary**

**Temple**: a building used for worship

**Adultery**: sex with someone who is not your husband or wife.

**Command**: order, direct, or demand you to obey.

**Accuse**: to blame someone for some wrong thing.

**Sin**: to break God’s law – do something wrong.

**Stone to death**: A form of capital punishment where stones are thrown at the accused until they are killed.

***John 8:2-11.*** *(CEV)*

**Narrator**: Early the next morning Jesus went back to the Temple. The people came to him, and he sat down and started teaching the people. The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees (*religious leaders*) brought in a woman who had been caught in bed with a man who wasn’t her husband, and they made her stand before all of them.

**Religious**  Teacher (*Jesus),* this woman was caught in adultery with a man who is **Leader** not her husband (adultery).

**Lawyer**: In our Law a woman who commits adultery must be stoned to   
 death.

**Religious** Now, what do you say Jesus? **Leader**

**Narrator**  They asked Jesus this question, because they wanted to test him and bring some charges against him. They kept asking Jesus wanting to accuse him*.* But Jesus bent over and wrote on the ground with his finger.

**Jesus** Whoever has done nothing wrong may throw the first stone at   
 her.

**Narrator** Then Jesus bent over again and wrote on the ground. When   
 the religious leaders and lawyers heard this, they all left, one   
 by one, beginning with the oldest. Jesus was left alone, with the woman standing there. Jesus got up.

**Jesus** (*to the woman*). Where are they? Is there no one left to accuse you?

**Woman** No one, sir.

**Jesus** Well, then, I do not accuse you either. Go, but do not sin   
 again.

****

**Discussion**

1. Give each pair a WH question to answer: ***Who*** is the story about, ***What*** is the story about, ***When*** did it happen, ***Where*** did it happen, ***Why*** is this story told?
2. Interview the actors in the story and ask the questions:

**Lawyer:** What is the punishment for adultery? Why didn’t you throw a   
 a stone?

**Religious Leader**: Why did you walk away?

**Woman**: How will your life change after this experience?

**Jesus:** What authority/power do you have to forgive sins?

3 What do we learn about Jesus in this story?

4. Have you ever forgiven someone or been forgiven?

**Jesus is God **

**Introduction A Life Changing Catch of Fish**

Today we continue our series of lessons leading up to Easter. Christmas and Easter are the two main festivals in Australia. To understand the importance of these festivals you need to know more about Jesus. Through these lessons you will learn why these festivals are so important and some important vocabulary associated with these special events. Today's story is about a life changing catch of fish.

**Hot Topics**

1. Have you ever been fishing? Who taught you to fish? What did you catch? Is it easy to catch fish in your country?

2. Why are fishing nets illegal in some countries? Is that a good or bad thing?

3. What qualities of character do you need to be a good fisherman/woman?

4. What is the most amazing thing you have ever seen in nature?

### **Today’s Lesson…**

Choose 3 people to read the story:

Narrator, Jesus and Simon (you may want to break the group up into threes so everyone has a speaking part).

**Vocabulary**

**Lake Galilee**: a lake in the land of Israel

**Master**: a respectful name for a teacher of God’s word.

**Partner:** someone who shares an activity with another.

**Sin**: Wrongdoing.

**Sinful**: guilty of many wrongdoings.

**Amazed**: greatly surprised.

**Reluctant**: not eager to do something.

*Luke 5:1-11(CEV)*

**Narrator:** One day Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Galilee teaching the people. Many people were pushing their way up to him to listen to God’s message. He saw two boats pulled up on the beach; the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats that belonged to Simon and asked him to row it out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat in the boat and taught the crowd. (Pause)

When Jesus had finished speaking, he told Simon:

**Jesus**: Row the boat out into the deep water, and let your nets down to catch some fish.

**Narrator**: Simon answered:

**Simon**: Master, we have worked all night long and haven’t caught a thing. But if you tell me to, I will let the nets down.

**Narrator**: They let the nets down and caught such a large number of fish that their nets were about to break. So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full of fish that the boats were about to sink. When Simon saw what had happened, he fell on his knees before Jesus.

**Simon**: Go away from me Lord! I am a sinful man!

**Narrator**: He and the others with him were all amazed at the large number of fish they had caught.

**Jesus:**  (to Simon): Don’t be afraid: from now on you will be catching people.

**Narrator**: They pulled the boats up on the beach, left everything, and followed Jesus.

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**Discussion**

1. What was surprising in this story?
2. How did Peter’s life change after this event?
3. What was it like for you to leave everything in your country to come to Australia? What were the hardest things to leave?
4. Can you think of one event that has changed your life or influenced you?

**English Corner**

**Christmas**

***The next 3 lessons are about the story of Christmas.***

**Hot Topics**

1. Do you celebrate Christmas in your country? If so, how?
2. Where are you going to have Christmas in Australia?

**Vocabulary**

***Pictionary:***

Take one vocabulary card each. Look at the definition and then draw the meaning on the other side of the card. In pairs, show the drawing to your partner they have to guess the word. Then show the rest of the group your word and definition as you read the story.



Christmas is the story of God’s love. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ to earth to be our Saviour so that we can have a relationship with God. This is the first part of the Christmas story. Read through together once to check for understanding. Then act out the story. You need two Narrators, an Angel, Mary, Joseph and a prophet (Luke 1:26 – 33).

**Narrator 1**: God sent an angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin   
 engaged to a man named Joseph. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said:

**Angel:** Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.

**Narrator 2:** Mary was confused by the angel’s words and wondered what they meant. But the angel said to her:

**Angel:** Don’t be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him King, and his kingdom will never end.

**Narrator1**: Mary asked the angel:

**Mary:**  How can this happen? I’m not married and I am a virgin!

**Angel:**  The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God’s power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God. Nothing is impossible for God!

**Mary:**  I am the Lord’s servant. Let it happen as you have said.

**Joseph Learns the Truth:**

**Narrator 2:** Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant – even though he hadn’t had sex with her. Joseph was a good man and didn’t want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding. But while he was sleeping he had a dream and an angel of the Lord appeared to him and said:

**Angel:** Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save people from their sins.

**Narrator 1:** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet a long time ago:

**Prophet:** *The virgin (a person who has not had sex) will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel -*

**Narrator 2:** Which means ’God is with us’. When Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married, just as the Lord’s angel had told him to do.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Mary was engaged to Joseph. What is the role of engagement in your country?

2. In your culture what happens to women who become pregnant before they are married? What happens to the child? (in pairs)

1. What does your name mean? What does the name Jesus mean? (in   
    threes)
2. How is this pregnancy different from other pregnancies?
3. God is ‘with us’ - what does that mean? How does this affect the   
    way we live?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **December** | | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Text** | **Theme** | **Warm-Up/Introduction** |
| 2/12 | The Announcement | Luke 1:26-38 Mat 1.18-25 | The miraculous conception | Bring a bag of Christmas symbols (tree decorations are useful). A small Christmas tree, a gift, a star, a nativity scene (picture), Santa Claus. Ask students what they think each symbol tells us about the meaning of Christmas. |
| 9/12 | The Birth of Jesus | Luke 2:1-20 | The angels announce the birth | Show pictures of royal palaces, opulent surroundings, and then compare with pictures of a stable. Discuss the humble surroundings. |
| 16/12 | The Whole Christmas Story | Christmas Play | Putting the story together | Select students to be the main characters. Get teachers to help put the students into role and practice their part.  The rest of the students practice being the audience. Responding to cue cards as the play is acted out e.g wahhh wahhh for baby Jesus, or baaa baaa for the sheep etc. |
| **Events** | | | | |
| * English Corner Christmas Party | | | | |

**English Corner**

**Christmas continued...**

**Hot Topics**

1. Where were you born?
2. After a baby is born, is there anything the mother/father should do or not do?
3. Were there any special celebrations/ceremonies after you were born? E.g. 100 days in Korea, baptism etc….

**Vocabulary**

**Wrapped**: to cover something or someone with cloth, paper etc.

**Strips of cloth**: long narrow pieces of cloth.

**Manger**: an animal feed container that contained hay.

**Inn**: a hotel

**Fields**: An area of land for growing crops or feeding animals.

**Shepherd**: someone whose job is to look after sheep.

**Glory**: great beauty

**Frightened**: afraid or nervous.

**Saviour:** someone who saves people from great harm.

**Praising**: to give respect and thanks to God

.

**Introduction**

Christmas is the story of God’s love. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ to earth to be our Saviour so that we can have a relationship with God. This is the first part of the Christmas story. The Christmas story is about the birth of Jesus. His birth is very special as Mary became pregnant through God’s Holy Spirit. Today we are going to read about the birth of Jesus.

You need: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Angel, Angel 1, 2 and 3, Shepherds 1 & 2.

**Jesus is born** Luke 2:1-20 *(DB*)

Narrator 1: Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, when the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son**,** wrapped him in strips of clothand laid him in a manger**,** as there was no room at the inn**.**

Narrator 2: That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were looking after their sheep. All at once an angel came down to them from God, and the brightness of the Lord’s glory flashed around them. The shepherds were frightened, but the angel said to them:

Angel 1: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in Bethlehem a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

Narrator1: Suddenlya great number of angels appeared, praising God

Angels 1,2,3: Praise God in heaven and peace on earth to everyone who pleases God.

Narrator 2: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another:

Shepherds1& 2: Let’s go to Bethlehem!

Shepherd 1: And see this thing that has happened.

Shepherd 2: Which the Lord has told us about.

Narrator 1: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in a manger on a bed of hay.

Narrator 2: The Shepherds returned praisingGod for all the things they had heard and seen.

**Quick Review Quiz**

In two teams try and answer the following:

1. Who are Joseph and Mary?
2. What was the relationship between Joseph and Mary?
3. What was special about this pregnancy?

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Where was Jesus born? Is this the kind of place for God’s son?
2. What do the circumstances around his birth tell us about God?

**Christmas Story Characters**

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Narrator 3

Isaiah

Micah

Jeremiah

Mary

Joseph

Government Official

Backpacker Manager

Bethlehem YHA Manager

Innkeeper  
Baby Jesus

Shepherd 1

Shepherd 2

Shepherd 3

Angel 1

Angel 2

Angel 3

Angel 4

King 1

King 2

King 3

Epilogue 1

**Vocabulary**

**Narrator:** tells the story

**Prophet**: someone sent by God to tell people what to do, or to say what will happen in the future.

**Virgin**: someone who has never had sex

**engaged**: promised to marry

**Shepherd**: a person who looks after sheep

**census**: a counting of all the people

**manger**: a feeding box for animals

**English Corner**

**Christmas Play**

**Narrator 1** Welcome to the **Christmas Story** about the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Narrator 2 A** long, long time ago before the birth of Jesus (about 600BC), a man named Isaiah, one of God’s special messengers, told people that Jesus would come and save them. Isaiah knew that God’s Son would be born into the world. Many other prophets, (messengers of God) also told the people of the future King.

**The prophets: (speaking to the crowd)**

**Isaiah**  He will come and save you.

**Micah**  He will be born in Bethlehem.

**Isaiah**  He will be born to a virgin.

**Jeremiah** He will be a descendent of King David.

**Isaiah** He will be God’s son.

**Narrator 3:**  Some time later, about 2000 years ago, there lived a young woman called Mary who was living in the town of Nazareth. She was engaged to be married to Joseph - a carpenter. One day, an angel appeared to Mary. Mary was very surprised and scared.

**Angel 1** Do not be afraid, Mary, God is pleased with you. You will give birth to a Son, and you are to give him the name, Jesus.

**Mary**  But how can this happen? I am a virgin.

**Angel 1** The power of God’s Holy Spirit will come over you. So the special child will be called the Son of God.

**Mary** I am the Lord’s servant - may it happen just as you have said.

**Narrator 1** Meanwhile Joseph, Mary’s fiancé, was shocked to find that Mary was pregnant,

**Joseph**  That’s impossible - how can Mary be pregnant?

I must quietly break off this engagement - I can’t marry her now.

**Narrator 2** But that night, God sent an angel to Joseph while he was having a dream.

**Angel 2** Joseph, don’t be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. Her baby has been formed by the power of God’s Holy Spirit. When he is born, name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.

**Narrator 3** Joseph remembered what the prophet Isaiah said a long time ago - .

**Prophet Isaiah (calling out to the crowd)…** The Saviour will be born from a virgin.

**Joseph**  Now I understand, this baby is from God! Mary has done nothing wrong.

**Narrator 1** So Joseph did what the angel told him and took Mary home as his wife.

**Narrator 2** When Mary was nearly due to give birth to the baby, Joseph and Mary had to travel by donkey from their town, Nazareth to the city of Bethlehem.

**Government official**

Every man has to register in the town where he was born as the government wants to do a census, to count the people so we can tax everybody.

**Joseph** **(speaking to Mary).** Mary, we must go to Bethlehem where my family was born, even though you are very pregnant.

**Narrator 3** So Mary and Joseph started their long journey to Bethlehem on a donkey.

**Narrator 1** When they arrived in Bethlehem, the town was very crowded with people because of the census. Although Joseph searched everywhere, he couldn’t find anywhere for them to stay. First he went to the Palace backpackers.

**Joseph** Do you have any rooms?

**Backpacker Manger**

Sorry mate, we have no vacancies.

**Narrator 2** Mary, who was very pregnant asked the Bethlehem YHA…

**Mary** Any vacancies?

**Bethlehem YHA Manager**

Sorry! No vacancies. I know you are very pregnant but we are all full because of the Census.

**Narrator 3** Joseph than asked an innkeeper…

**Joseph** Do you have any spare beds?

**Innkeeper** Sorry…

**Narrator 1** But then the innkeeper said….

**Innkeeper** You’re welcome to sleep in my stable. It’s all I have left- but it is clean and warm.

**Narrator 2** So that night May and Joseph went to the stable which was clean and warm.

**Joseph** (Joseph turning to Mary)It’s not the Ritz Carlton Hotel but it will do, it’s clean and warm.

**Narrator 3** That night Mary gave birth to a baby boy.

**Baby Jesus** Wahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

**Narrator 1** She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger filled with fresh hay.

**Mary and Joseph and everybody sing - Away in a manger\*\*\*\* (See Song Sheet)**

**Narrator 2** Near Bethlehem, shepherds were eating Kim Chi while watching their sheep in the fields.

**Narrator 3** Suddenly an angel appeared and the sky was filled with beautiful light and heavenly music.

**Narrator 1** The shepherds were afraid.

**Shepherds** Huuuh! (Shock) Oh oh oh !

**Angel 1**  “Hey you shepherds, don’t be afraid!

**Angel 2** We bring you very, very, very good news!

**Angel 3** Tonight in the town of Bethlehem - a Saviour has been born - He is Christ, the Lord.

**Angel 4** You will find him lying in a manger.”

**Everybody sing - Hark the Herald Angels Sing.\*\*\* (See Song Sheet)**

**Shepherd 1** We want to see this special child of God.

**Shepherd 2**  Let’s go and find him!

**Shepherd 3** Let’s leave the sheep and our Kim Chi and hurry into town.

**Narrator 2** When the Shepherds arrived in town they saw Mary and Joseph and the little baby Jesus in a manger in the stable. Things were so peaceful and so beautiful, so calm and so bright.

**Everybody sings - Silent Night\*\*\* (See Song Sheet)**

**Narrator 3** Far away in the countries of the East, some kings, who were very wise men, had been watching the night sky when they saw a bright and beautiful star in the sky in the sky over Bethlehem.

**King 1** Look at that star!

**King 2** It’s amazing, it’s so big!

**King 3**  It’s so bright!

**King 1** It’s so beautiful!

**Narrator 1** They knew that this special star had a special meaning,

**Narrator 2** They remembered what the prophet had said in the book of Numbers:

When the king is born, you will see a bright star.

**King 1** This bright star means a great king has been born.

**King 2** This means, the king of all kings, the one who saves us from our sins, has been born.

**King 3**  We must find him and worship him.

**3 X Kings** Let’s follow the bright and beautiful star

**Narrator 3** The wise men were kings in their own lands, so they packed gifts that were very rare and special.

**Narrator 1** The wise men left their countries and travelled to Bethlehem to follow the bright star.

**Narrator 2** Eventually they came to where the baby Jesus lived.

**Everybody sings - The Little Drummer Boy \*\*\* (See Song Sheet)**

**Narrator 3** When the Kings saw Jesus they knelt down and worshipped him.

**King 2** We have brought special gifts for the King.

**King 3** We may be kings on earth, but he is the king of heaven and earth - the one true king.

**Narrator 1** The birth of Jesus was a wonderful event because he is God’s great gift to the world.

That is why the shepherds and the wise men were so happy.

**Shepherds/Kings** We are very happy!!!!

**Epilogue 1** When we celebrate the feast of Christmas each year. It is because we are happy that Jesus Christ was born. That special feeling we have at Christmas is because our hearts are full of the gifts He came to give us… LOVE and MERCY and PEACE. They are God’s gift to us because he loves us. What amazing things happened in Bethlehem for us 2000 years ago!

**Everybody sing – We wish you a Merry Christmas\*\*\*(See Song Sheet)**

**Song Sheet**

**1. Away in a manger**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,**

**The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.**

**The stars in the night sky look down where He lay**

**The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**2. Hark the Herald Angels sing**

**Hark the herald Angels sing,**

**Glory to the newborn king!**

**Peace on earth and mercy mild,**

**God and sinners reconciled.”**

**Joyful, all ye nations rise,**

**Join the triumph of the skies;**

**With the angelic host proclaim**

**Christ is born in Bethlehem**

**Hark the herald angels sing,**

**Glory to the newborn king!**

1. **Silent Night**

**Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace**

1. **The Little Drummer Boy**

**Come they told him Par-rup-pa-pa-pum**

**A new born King to see Par-rup- pa- pa- pum**

**Our finest gifts we bring Par-rup-pa-pa-pum**

**To lay before the king Par-rup-pa-pa-pum, Par-rup-pa-pa-pum, Par-rup-pa-pa-pum**

**So to honour him Par-rup-pa-pa-pum**

**When we come**

**5. We Wish You a Merry Christmas**

**We wish you a merry Christmas**

**We wish you a merry Christmas**

**We wish you a merry Christmas**

**And a Happy New Year**

**We wish you a merry Christmas**

**We wish you a merry Christmas**

**We wish you a merry Christmas**

**And a Happy New Year**

Resources

**Bible References:**

***We have found the following versions of the Bible particularly suited for ESL students***.

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[www.christianesl.com](http://www.christianesl.com)

www.yourenglishcorner.net

**Dictionary Used**

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**Multiplying Disciples Resources:**

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http://www.movenetwork.org/engage/resources/**Other Resources Produced by English Corner Teachers:**

Ashley Hood (2012). *Communication, Culture and Christ: Chinese Discovery*. This manual contains Teacher and student notes for English classes that explore functional English, Chinese cultural stories and related Bible stories. Email englishcorner@aapt.net for copies.

Ashley Hood (2013) . *Communication, Culture and Christ: World Discovery*. This Manual contains Teacher and student notes for English classes that explore functional English, Cultural stories from around the world and related Bible stories. Email: *englishcorner@aapt.net for copies.*

Kim Hood and Chris Neale (2013). *G’day Saturday Teacher’s Manual*. This manual contains a yearly syllabus based around international and local events. Email: [*englishcorner@aapt.net.au*](mailto:englishcorner@aapt.net.au)for copies*.*

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