

# Teaching English Through Parables and Discussion



## Teacher's Guide

TEACHING ENGLISH THROUGH PARABLES AND DISCUSSION

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*Sixth edition*



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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.

*Kim and Ashley Hood*

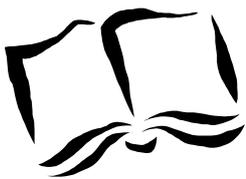
February 2011

### ***Update***

We recently celebrated the English Corner 10 year anniversary. We give thanks to God for all that He has taught us through the fabulous adventures we have had with folk from around the world, teaching English as ministry.

## The Principles Behind English Corner

### 1. God is Drawing People to Himself



**W**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.

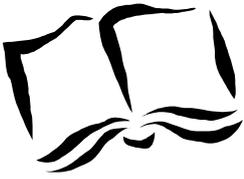
We never push students and hope to be open and respectful to students from other religions. We understand that God is the one who makes the seed of the gospel grow. We need to provide the right setting, be imitators of Christ and then let God's Spirit do the rest.

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



**W**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

**I**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.

## 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.

2. **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.

- 3. 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.

- 4. 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.

## 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.

**2. 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.

**3. 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 Parables Used in English Corner

Lesson	Title	Parable	Text	Main Theme	Suggested Warm-Up/Introductory Activity
1	The Storms of Life	The Two Builders	Mt 7:24-29	The Foundation of your life	Story of the Three Pigs.
2	Your Heart	The Sower	Mt 13:1-9, 18-23	People will respond differently to spiritual truth	Discussion about farming in different countries.
3	The Camel and the Rich Man	The Camel and the Rich Man	Mt 19:16 - 30	What is impossible for man is possible for God	Competition threading a needle.
4	Hospitality and Forgiveness	The Pharisee and the Woman	Lk 7:36-50	Debt and forgiveness	Hospitality customs in different countries. Different ways of greeting.
5	The Tax Collector	The Tax Collector	Mk 2:13-17	Being open to new ways of thinking	Comparing taxes between countries.
6	The Good Samaritan	The Good Samaritan	Lk 10:30 - 37	Who is my neighbour?	<p>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.</p> <p>What activities, things to do etc are in these parts of your city? E.g. cheap movie theatres, outlet shopping, parks, free events etc.</p>
7	The Lost Son	The Prodigal Son	Lk 15:11-31	God's grace, love and forgiveness	Parents' and friends' responses to the student leaving home - invite discussion.

## 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.

#### 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.

## The Many Meanings of Lessons ...

### *Learning English Through Discussion*

In these lessons students explore the many meanings of a word that has spiritual significance. Below is the list of the words that we use:

Lesson #	Word	Text	Theme	Warm-Up/Introduction
1	Love	1 Cor 13:4-8	The true meaning of love	<p>Good to cover around St Valentine's Day.</p> <p>'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 than females – males work with a partner.</p>
2.	Alone or Lonely?  Getting the most out of your time in Australia (or other city)	Ps 139: 9-10	God is with us	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
3.	Hope	Jer 29:11	God has a plan for our lives	<p>Students stand in the middle of the room. Teacher reads out things that students might be hoping for. Students have to decide how hopeful they are of these things coming true. 0%(no hope) – 100% (will come true)</p> <p>E.g world peace; men and women will one day be equal; they will get a good TOEIC/IELTS score; they will not eat any junk food this week etc.</p>

Lesson #	Word	Text	Theme	Warm-Up/Introduction
4.	Image	Ps 139:13-14	Our image is sacred	Bring some clothes that represent some style of fashion: e.g. beach wear, formal wear, sports wear. You only need a few fun/unusual looking items for students to wear. Select some more adventurous students to model these styles. You can provide some catwalk music to capture the theme of the fashion parade.
5.	Festivals(Moon cake) and Ancestor worship	John 11:25-26	Death is final	Bring some moon cakes or other festival foods and discuss the festivals meaning.
6.	Dreams (1)	Phil 4:4-7	Sleep and stress	Find 'Someone Who' questionnaire: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Find someone who sleeps more than 8 hours.</li> <li>2. Find someone who has fallen asleep on public transport and missed his or her stop.</li> <li>3. Find someone who listens to music to go to sleep.</li> <li>4. Find someone who talks or walks in their sleep.</li> <li>5. Find someone who is a light sleeper.</li> <li>6 (other)</li> </ol>
7.	Dreams (2)	Is 65:17-25 (adapted and summarised)	Goal – Isaiah's dream of the future	This study can be done around New Year or the beginning of the year. You can get students discussing their New Year resolutions, or describing their dream partner.
8.	Faith	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. Michael Jackson, George Bush, Mother Teresa etc. Who do students have faith in? Why or why not? They can discuss and then move onto the next picture.

Lesson #	Word	Text	Theme	Warm-Up/Introduction
9.	Peace	Mt 6:25-34	God cares for you	Write some words that would invoke worry from the Students: war, exams, learning English, getting lost, running out of money, etc. Introduce the topic of worry.
10.	Perseverance	Rom 5:3-5	Because of the love of God we can persevere	Ask students to line up from the shortest time someone has been in Australia/other city to the longest time. Bring the two ends of the line together so there are now two lines facing each other so that the longest time student is matched with the shortest time student and so on. Ask the longest time student in the pairs to give advice on how to persevere in studying English or living in Australia (other city).
11.	Self-control and Addiction	Prov 25:28	Root causes of addiction – living away from home – dealing with stress	<p>(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.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>(2) Do the chocolate game. Students have to role 2 six's, dress up and using a knife and fork, eat one piece of chocolate at a time. They can continue until the next person roles 2 six's on the dice. Continue until the chocolate is finished. An alternative is eating M and M's with chopsticks.</p> <p>This introduces the idea that some people can be addicted to chocolate or gambling (the dice).</p>
12.	Thanksgiving	1Thes 5:16-17	Being thankful	<p>Write up on the board all the different ways we can say thank you and how we can reply:</p> <p>Thanks a lot - No worries - It was nothing, Thanks heaps – No problem; Thank you – Anytime, Don't mention it; Ta, My pleasure</p>
13.	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.

<b>Lesson #</b>	<b>Word</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Warm-Up/Introduction</b>
14.	Language Learning	Col 3:23	Who are you studying/working for?	Fill out the Language Learning Style questionnaire.
15.	Who Is God? Is Anyone There?	Acts 17:24-28	God is the creator and sustainer of life	Look at a label on a clothing item of yours. Where was it made? Who made you?....
16.	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.
17.	Tragedy	Is 40:27-31	Finding a hope in the midst of tragedy.	Show pictures of recent tragedies/natural disasters, eliciting vocabulary from the pictures.
18.	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 pictorial activity where students are given an occupation, they have to draw the occupation and the other students guess the occupation.
19.	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.	Certainty	Is 65:17...25	Future certainty	Students are given questions to answer using the scale: certainly – maybe –unlikely – never. For example: Is it going to rain tomorrow? Are you going to get married next year?
21.	Happiness	Mat 5: 3-9	True happiness	Ask students what are they happy about with their college/work and why.
22.	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.

Lesson #	Word	Text	Theme	Warm-Up/Introduction
23.	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.
24.	Fear – sickness  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.
25.	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.
26.	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.
27.	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.
28.	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.
29.	Water	John 5:1-8	Healing water	Have 3 different bottles of spring water. Students to taste test the different types of water and rate them. Is the most expensive water better?

## Lesson series on Jesus leading up to Easter and Christmas

Lesson #	Jesus	Story	Text	Main Theme	Warm-Up/ Introduction
1.	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.
2.	Jesus Teaches	Jesus came to preach and teach	Mk 1:21-28	Jesus is a powerful teacher	Students draw a picture of an ideal teacher and write down their characteristics. Discuss in pairs.
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.
4.	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.

## Christmas Series

Lesson #	Topic	Text		Theme	Warm-Up/ Introduction
1	The Announcement	Luke 1:26-38 1.18-25	Mat	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.
2	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.
3	The Wise Men	Mat 2:1-11		Jesus the Messiah	Pass the parcel. Inside contains questions about Christmas – Christmas in their country, sing a Christmas carol, Say Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas like Santa etc.
4	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.

## Easter Series

Lesson #	Topic	Text	Theme	Warm-Up/ Introduction
1	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.
2	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).
3	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.

## **Parable Lessons**

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Lessons to photocopy

**ENGLISH CORNER MENU**  
*Learning English Through Discussion*

**The Storms of Life**

Today's lesson is about storms, floods and a wise man!

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Work out the meaning of the weather idioms in the following discussion questions (good luck!)
  - a. Have you ever played sport when it was bucketing down?
  - b. In your country when does it usually rain cats and dogs?
2. Have you ever experienced a hurricane, typhoon, tornado, or flood? Share your experiences.

**THE STORY - Matthew 7:24-29** (CEV)

Today's story is a parable told by Jesus. A parable is a story that has a deeper meaning. We can learn important truths from parables told by Jesus.

Choose **three** people to read the story: Speaker 1, Speaker 2 and Narrator.

Speaker 1	Anyone who hears and <u>obeys</u> these teachings and doesn't obey them is like a <u>wise</u> person who built a house on solid rock.
Speaker 2	Rain poured down, the rivers flooded and the winds beat against the house. But it did not fall because it was built on solid rock.
Speaker 1	Anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a <u>foolish</u> person who built a house on sand.
Speaker 2	The rain <u>poured</u> down, the rivers flooded, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and finally, it fell with a crash!
Narrator	When Jesus finished speaking, the <u>crowds</u> were surprised at His teachings. He wasn't like the religious teachers – Jesus taught with <u>authority</u> .

**DISCUSSION**

1. Divide into pairs. Student A: draw the foolish man's house. Student B: draw the wise man's house. Then explain the story together.
2. In pairs discuss what Jesus was trying to teach.
3. When you visit another country, away from family friends, you can be faced with many different choices and experiences (good and bad). Your 'house' can be shaken. You may do things in Australia that you would never do in your own country. Jesus was saying that if your life was built on rock (himself), something solid, a certainty, then your time in Australia, good and bad, would not shake or destroy you. But if your life is built on sand, always changing, nothing solid or certain, then your experience in Australia, good and bad, could confuse, upset and may cause you to fall. Have you seen this happen to anyone? How do you manage the storms in your life?

**VOCABULARY**

<b>Obeys these words of mine:</b> To follow or do what Jesus says to do.
<b>Wise:</b> A wise person is able to use their knowledge and experience to make good decisions.
<b>Foolish:</b> Opposite of wise.
The rain <b>poured</b> down: to rain really heavily, producing lots of water.
<b>Crowd:</b> Many people.
Jesus taught with <b>authority</b> : He taught with confidence and people respected and admired what he said.

**Your Heart...**

**HOT TOPICS**

- Have you ever worked on a farm?
- What are the major crops produced in your country?
- What problems do farmers have in your country?

**TODAY'S LESSON...**

We are going to learn English through parables. Jesus told many stories that contain important truth. Today's story is about a farmer but it is also a story about your heart.

**VOCABULARY**

**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**

*You may want to break your group into 2 if you have large numbers.*



**THE FARMER** - *Mathew 13:1-23 (CEV)*

**Voice 1:** 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 seeds 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 sower sows God's message.

**Voice 2:** The seeds that fall along the road are the people who hear the 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. Choose a part of the story to draw (see Table below) then take turns, explaining the whole story using the pictures you have drawn.**

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

**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? Do you want to be like one of the other pictures? If you answered yes, how can you change?

**ENGLISH CORNER MENU**  
*Learning English Through Discussion*

**The Camel and the Rich Man**

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Do you like to ask questions in class? Why or why not?
2. Is it okay in your culture to ask questions?

In today's story we meet a man who has a question. He was a rich young man who was a leader. Choose four people to read the story: *narrator, man, Jesus, disciple*.

**The Rich Young Ruler – Matthew 19:16-30 (CEV)**

Narrator: Once a man came to Jesus. He asked:

Man: Teacher, what good things must I do to have eternal life?

Jesus: Why do you ask me what is good? Only God is good. If you want to have eternal life, you must obey God's commandments.

Man: What ones?

Jesus: Do not murder; be faithful in marriage; do not steal; do not tell lies; do not cheat; respect your mother and father and love others as much as you love yourself.

Man: I have obeyed all these commandments. What else must I do?

Jesus: If you want to be perfect, go and sell everything you own! Give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow me.

Narrator: When the rich man heard this, he went away sad, because he was very rich. Jesus then said to his disciples.

Jesus: It's terribly hard for rich people to get into the Kingdom of God. In fact it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into God's kingdom.

Narrator: When the disciples heard this, they were greatly surprised.

Disciple: Who, then, can be saved?

Narrator: Jesus looked straight at them and said:

Jesus: This is impossible for man, but for God everything is possible.

**Discussion**

1. What was the man's question? (*In large group discuss*)
2. What is eternal life? In your culture what do you believe will happen when you die? (*In pairs*).
3. Jesus said if you want to be perfect, you should go and sell everything you have and give to the poor. Could you do that? Is it possible to be perfect? (*In threes discuss*).
4. The disciples realised they weren't perfect and couldn't enter the kingdom of God. How does Jesus reassure them? (*In large group discuss*).

**Vocabulary**

**Knelt** is past tense of - Kneel = to fall on your knees  
**Commandments** = laws given by God for us to obey  
**Genuine** = real or true sorrowful = feeling unhappy

**Eternal** = lasting forever  
**Adultery** = sex with someone other than husband or wife  
**Disciples** = followers of Jesus

## HOSPITALITY & FORGIVENESS

### HOT TOPICS

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*)

Today we are going to look at a story in the Bible from Luke 7:36-50. It is about hospitality. It is also about two people in debt and how they felt when their debt was forgiven. 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, 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 prostitute turned up. Read to see what happens!

### VOCABULARY

**Pharisee:** a religious leader

**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.

### 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 get ready for him. 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:** Why did you invite Jesus to your house? How did you feel when the prostitute came and washed Jesus' feet?

**The Prostitute:** Why did you wash and kiss Jesus' feet?

**Jesus:** Why did you tell the story about the money lender?

### DISCUSSION

#### In threes discuss:

What would you do if you knew that all your sins (all the bad things you have done) could be forgiven? How would you feel?

**ENGLISH CORNER MENU**  
*Learning English Through Discussion*

**The Tax Collector – Being Open to New Ways of Thinking**

*Today's story is about a tax collector and his encounter with Jesus. It is also about being open to new ways of thinking.*

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Do you have high or low taxes in your country?
2. Have you been sick in Australia and had to go to a doctor? Was the medical system here different from the medical system in your country? How?
3. As international students, what parts of Australian culture or values do you find difficult to understand or accept?
4. Which new idea(s) have you learnt in Australia that may be difficult to take back home? Why?

**THE STORY:**

Break into groups of 3. Each student selects a role to read out. **Narrator**, **Jesus** and the **Pharisee** (religious leader).

**Jesus and the Tax Collector - Mark 2: 13-17(CEV)**

**Narrator:** Jesus went to the shore of Lake Galilee. A large crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he walked along, he saw Levi, a tax collector, sitting in his office.

**Jesus:** Follow me.

**Narrator:** Levi got up and followed him. (Pause)  
Later on Jesus was having dinner in Levi's house. A large number of tax collectors and other sinners were following Jesus, and many of them joined him and the disciples for dinner. Some of the teachers of the Law, who were Pharisees, saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors, so they asked Jesus' disciples:

**Pharisee:** Why does Jesus eat with such people?

**Narrator:** Jesus heard them and answered:

**Jesus:** Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. I didn't come to invite people who think they are good and do not sin, I came to invite people who know they are sinners.

**DISCUSSION**

1. Why do you think a large number of tax collectors and other outcasts were following Jesus?
2. The Pharisees were surprised to see Jesus eating with sinners. Why?
3. In this story, who are the 'sick people' and who are the 'healthy people'?
4. Which type of person are you?

**VOCABULARY**

**Crowd:** a large group of people

**Disciple:** someone who follows the teachings of somebody

**Sinners:** people who disobey God

**Taxes:** money that you have to pay the government from the money you earn

**Pharisee:** a Jewish religious leader

**Tax collectors:** People who collect taxes for the government.

**ENGLISH CORNER**  
**Learning English Through Discussion**  
**The Good Samaritan**

**Hot Topics**

1. What do you know about Australian Aboriginal history? (*in group*)
2. Have you met an Aboriginal Australian? (*in threes*)
3. Who are the Aboriginal people in your country? (*in pairs*)

**Today's Lesson...**

Today's story is about 2 people groups—the Jews and the Samaritans. The story shows how relationships can be improved. It is found in the Bible.

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 was told 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.

**THE STORY** - Luke 10:30-37(CEV)

**Choose 9 people to act out the following parts:** Narrator, Jesus, Lawyer, Traveller, Robber, Samaritan, Priest, Levite, and 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.*)

**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 someone  
**Poured:** to make liquid flow  
**Wounds:** an injury

**Narrator:** One day a lawyer wanted to know who his neighbour was. To explain that his neighbour was someone 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. 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. 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.

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

1. (to the Priest) Why didn't you stop to help the traveller?
2. (to the Levite) Why didn't you stop?
3. (to the Samaritan) Why did you stop?

**Discussion:** (*in pairs*)

Who is your neighbour?

Is Jesus' explanation of a neighbour surprising to you?

**ENGLISH CORNER**  
**Learning English Through Discussion**

**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 the same as when you are at 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 leave home.

**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 five people to read the following parts:** 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.

Interview the people in the story (see discussion section for interview questions).

**The Lost Son & His Father –**

**The Many Reasons For Travelling - Luke 15:11-31 (CEV)**

**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 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 good enough to **Son** 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 this?
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 away? How?

## **The Many Meanings of... Lessons**

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Lessons to photocopy – 2 per page

**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. In English the one word love, means so many different things. In your country do you have one word for love or many different words?
2. **Friends/Family**
  - a) Is it possible to love all family members equally?
  - b) How do your parents show they love you?
  - c) How do you show your love to your friends and family?
3. **Enjoy**
  - a) What do you love about your country?
  - b) What do you love about Australia?
4. **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 - To 'try before you buy'?
  - d) Do you think you can only love one person in your life?
5. How would you define love?
6. In the Bible (1 Corinthians 13:4-8 CEV), 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

**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. In English the one word love, means so many different things. In your country do you have one word for love or many different words?
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  - a) Is it possible to love all family members equally?
  - b) How do your parents show they love you?
  - c) How do you show your love to your friends and family?
3. **Enjoy**
  - a) What do you love about your country?
  - b) What do you love about Australia?
4. **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 - To 'try before you buy'?
  - d) Do you think you can only love one person in your life?
5. How would you define love?
6. In the Bible (1 Corinthians 13:4-8 CEV), 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

## 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 .....
5. Where do you like to go to be alone?
6. Have you ever been to the movies alone or eaten at a restaurant alone? Why or why not? How did it feel?
7. Why are we sometimes afraid of being alone?
8. 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, 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."*

*Psalms 139:9-10 (CEV).*

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**Hope (verb). To want something to happen or be true.** *I hope I will get a good TOEIC score.*

**Hope (verb). To hope to do something.** *I hope to travel after I finish studying.*

**Hope (noun). A positive feeling about the future.** *What are your hopes and dreams for the future?*

**Hope (noun). In the hope of/that because you want something good to happen.** *She went to Australia in the hope of improving her English.*

### Hot Topics

- In pairs discuss: What are you hoping for at the moment?
  - With your study?
  - Living in Australia?
  - For your country?
- In the large group discuss: Did you come to Australia in the hope that:
  - You would become an advanced English speaker?
  - Have an adventure?
  - Meet Australians?
  - Meet a great guy/girl?
  - Other.....?
- Have you got what you hoped for in coming to Australia? What has disappointed you?
- How hopeful are you about the future? (no hope 0% → 100% very hopeful) with the following:
  - Finding a good husband/wife? \_\_\_\_%
  - Staying healthy? \_\_\_\_%
  - Finding a good job? \_\_\_\_%
  - Being successful? \_\_\_\_%
  - Being satisfied with your life? \_\_\_\_%
- Some people do not have a lot of hope for their future. They are worried about money, their job, their family, their country ....etc. In the Bible it is written (Jeremiah 29:11 CEV):  
*For I know the plans I have for you”, says God, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”*
- In threes, discuss how this passage from the Bible gives us hope?

### Vocabulary

**Satisfied:** pleased with your life.  
**Prosper:** to do well  
**Harm:** hurt or damage  
**Seek:** try to find something or someone

**Hope (verb). To want something to happen or be true.** *I hope I will get a good TOEIC score.*

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**IMAGE**

**Image:** *noun*: the way that other people think someone or something is.

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Look at the pictures - what fashion image best suits your style? Western, Casual, Stylish, Sporty, Formal, Chic?
2. Your personality/character. What image would you like? Why?

Business entrepreneur.....development worker  
fun loving.....serious and dependable  
quiet, reflective.....outgoing, impulsive  
saving money.....spending money  
book lover .....party goer  
sexy.....cute

3. Who has shaped your image? Your family, friends, movies, fashion magazines, department stores?
4. What part of your image are you unhappy with e.g. too short, too fat, impatient, lazy?

Many people are not happy with their image. They want to change their image. They read the latest fashion magazines, go on diets, buy expensive clothes/cars/bags have plastic surgery. One man in the Bible who was content with his image wrote:

“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 marvellous!”  
(Psalm 139:13-14) (CEV)

5. How does this writer feel about his image?
6. Do you think you are wonderfully made?

“God created man in his own image, in his own image he created him; male and female he created them.”  
Genesis 1:27 (CEV)

7. What do you think this means? How do we reflect God’s image?

**Vocabulary**

**Chic:** adj fashionable and attractive.  
**Dependable:** adj: able to be trusted  
**Impulsive:** adj: to do things suddenly, without planning or thinking carefully.  
**Created:** to make something happen or exist  
**Content:** adj: happy or satisfied.  
**Praise:** verb: to say that you admire them.  
**Marvellous:** adj: extremely good.

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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 Western culture, which has been influenced by Christian belief.

Christians believe that when once you have died you cannot influence or bring good or bad luck to the people living.

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

In the Bible Jesus said: "16God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die." John 3:16 (CEV)

6. In pairs discuss: What do 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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ENGLISH CORNER MENU  
Learning English Through Discussion  
DREAM – Part 1

**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. Are you a light sleeper or can you sleep on airplanes, buses and trains?
2. Do you think you sleep:
  - a) Too much
  - b) Not enough
  - c) Just right
3. How much sleep do you get each night (on average)? Is this more or less than when you were in your country?
4. What sleep differences have you noticed between people from your country and Australians?
5. Have you ever experienced insomnia? What can you do to treat insomnia? What do you think causes it?
6. Do you believe that dreams can help solve our problems? Do you try and understand the meanings of your dreams?

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.

7. In Australia what affects your sleep?
8. What are you worried about at the moment?

In the book of Philippians (4:4-7), 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. Then, because you belong to Jesus Christ, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And peace will control the way you think and feel. (CEV)*

**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.  
**Worry:** to think about problems in a way that makes you feel anxious.  
**Anxious:** worried and nervous.

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU  
Learning English Through Discussion  
Dream – Goal Part 2

**Dream:** *noun* Something that you want to happen although it is very difficult. *It was his dream to become an actor.*

**Goals**

1. What was your dream of coming to Australia? Have you found your dream? What might stop you reaching your dream? E.g. too shy, lazy, not enough money....
2. Describe your dream job. What would you be doing?
3. Describe your dream husband/wife. What would they be like? What would be their interests?
4. What is your dream for the future? Discuss it with a partner.

A man called Isaiah had this dream about what God was going to do in the future. In his dream, God promises Isaiah a bright future for those who believe in him. His dream is found in the Bible (CEV):

“I (God) am creating a new heaven and earth; everything of the past will be forgotten. ...Babies will no longer die in infancy, and all people will live out their life span. Those who live to be 100 will be considered young. People will build houses and get to live in them – someone else will not use them. They will fully enjoy the things that they have worked for. The work they do will be successful, and their children will not meet with disaster. Wolves and lambs will eat together; lions will eat straw, as cattle do, and snakes will no longer be dangerous. I the Lord have spoken!” (Isaiah 65:17-25).

5. What things did Isaiah dream about? How is it different to today? What would it be like to live in this new creation?

**Vocabulary**

**Creating:** verb. To make something happen.  
**Heaven:** the sky; the place where people who believe in God go after they die.  
**Forgotten:** past participle of forget: to not remember something.  
**Infancy:** noun. When you are a baby or a small child.  
**Life span:** noun. The amount of time that a; person lives.  
**Successful:** adj. achieving what you want to achieve.  
**Disaster:** noun. Something that causes a lot of damage or harm or an extremely bad situation.

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU  
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.*

### Hot Topics

1. In pairs, describe a person who you have faith in. How do you know you can trust them?
2. Can you think of a time when you lost faith in someone? What happened? (*In threes*)
3. Is it possible to be faithful to your husband/wife for the whole of your marriage? (*In pairs*).
4. Since being away from home, who has been a faithful friend to you? What have they done for you? (*In fours*).
5. Who do you have faith in:
  - a) political leaders?
  - b) parents?
  - c) employer?
  - d) friends?
  - e) God?
6. What different faiths (religious beliefs) do you have in your country?
7. The Bible defines faith as:  
"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1) (CEV)

For example it is by faith we understand that the universe was made by God or by faith we believe the theory of evolution.

8. Are you certain of what you do not see? For example the wind, love, God... why or why not?

### Vocabulary

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

**Evolution:** Darwin's theory about how life gradually developed and changed over millions of years.

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU  
Learning English Through Discussion  
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. Look at the newspaper articles. Match the news heading with the article. Why is there no peace in these places?
2. Are you a peacemaker?

**When there is an argument between two people do you:**

- a) join in
- b) take sides
- c) go silent
- d) try and mediate

**If people are gossiping about somebody and you know it isn't true- do you:**

- a) agree
- b) tell the other person what the other people said
- c) carefully say the truth

**In your family, were you the:**

- a) clown: made everybody laugh
- b) hero: protected your family
- c) pleaser: tried to make everyone happy
- d) peacemaker: tried to stop or calm down any family arguments.

**Peace has three different meanings. (See definition on the top of the page).**

1. **Peace:** *where there is no war, violence, or arguing.*
  - a. Do you think world peace is possible?
  - b. What do you think about these statements?
    - a) "There is a time for war and a time for peace"
    - b) "There is deceit in the hearts of those who plot evil, but joy for those who promote peace."

2. **Peace:** *When there is quiet and calm a feeling of peace.*
  - a) Where do you go or what do you do to find quiet and calm?

3. **Peace:** *Peace of mind a feeling that you do not need to worry about anything*
  - a. What are you worried about now? Does worrying help you? In the Bible it is written:

*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.*

(Matthew 6:25-34) (CEV)

**Vocabulary**

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

**Gossip:** verb: to talk about other people's lives.

**Deceit** noun: similar to lie

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ENGLISH CORNER MENU  
Learning English Through Discussion  
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. Look at the newspaper articles. Match the news heading with the article. Why is there no peace in these places?
2. Are you a peacemaker?

**When there is an argument between two people do you:**

- a) join in
- b) take sides
- c) go silent
- d) try and mediate

**If people are gossiping about somebody and you know it isn't true- do you:**

- a) agree
- b) tell the other person what the other people said
- c) carefully say the truth

**In your family, were you the:**

- a) clown: made everybody laugh
- b) hero: protected your family
- c) pleaser: tried to make everyone happy
- d) peacemaker: tried to stop or calm down any family arguments.

**Peace has three different meanings. (See definition on the top of the page).**

1. **Peace:** *where there is no war, violence, or arguing.*
  - a. Do you think world peace is possible?
  - b. What do you think about these statements?
    - a) "There is a time for war and a time for peace"
    - b) "There is deceit in the hearts of those who plot evil, but joy for those who promote peace."

2. **Peace:** *When there is quiet and calm a feeling of peace.*
  - a) Where do you go or what do you do to find quiet and calm?

3. **Peace:** *Peace of mind a feeling that you do not need to worry about anything*
  - a. What are you worried about now? Does worrying help you? In the Bible it is written:

*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.*

(Matthew 6:25-34) (CEV)

**Vocabulary**

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

**Gossip:** verb: to talk about other people's lives.

**Deceit** noun: similar to lie

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

**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.

- a) 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.

What can someone do when they lose their motivation to study? Give some suggestions:

You could.....

Why don't you.....

Have you tried.....

c) Sometimes finding different ways to study can help you keep motivated. Share with your group some ideas for practicing your:

- Speaking
- Reading
- Listening
- Writing

d) Difficult times can help us grow. Read the following passage from the Bible.

"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.

(Romans 5: 3-5 CEV)

1. Name some different ways people can suffer.
2. How does suffering produce perseverance?
3. If a person perseveres and does not give up, how does it strengthen their character?
4. Why does a stronger character give hope?

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.

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## 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

(Each person chooses one topic to lead a discussion on).

1. Which of the following can people be addicted to?
  - a) food
  - b) drugs
  - c) coffee
  - d) cigarettes
  - e) alcohol
  - f) shopping
  - g) exercise
  - h) money
  - i) gambling
  - j) sex
  - k) pornography
  - l) chocolate
  - m) relationships
2. Recently Queensland has introduced some new smoking laws. People are not allowed to smoke in pubs, clubs, near children's playgrounds, at the beach and in front of building entrances. Do you think these are good rules? Can laws stop addictive behaviour?
3. 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.
4. What are some common addiction problems in your country?
5. Is addiction a problem? Discuss.
6. What would you do if you thought your friend was addicted to drugs, alcohol, or gambling?
7. Discuss these statements from the Bible. What do they mean?

"Losing self-control leaves you as helpless as a city without a wall"  
Proverbs 25:28 (CEV).

"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."

#### Vocabulary

**Addict:** *noun*. Someone who cannot stop doing something  
**Addiction:** *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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Coming up is the National Day of Thanksgiving. Many churches, communities and individuals will come together on this day to say thank you. Our prime minister writes, "It is a day to be thankful that Australia is a peaceful nation, one that continues to promote tolerance, harmony and unity. As individuals, we have freedom of choice and the opportunities to live our lives to the fullest."

**HOT TOPICS**

1. Does your country have a national day of Thanksgiving? What do you do on this day? Why? *(Large group)*
2. When was the last time you said thank you (to the bus driver today – to your share mate). Describe the situation. *(In pairs)*
3. Who do you need to thank for your opportunity to come to Australia? *(In threes)*
  - Your parents?
  - Your friends for believing you could do it?
  - A work mate...
4. In your living situation in Australia – share house, home stay. Who normally:
  - a. Cleans the toilet?
  - b. Cleans the bathroom?
  - c. Cleans dishes?
  - d. Cooks the dinner?
  - e. ....

Who do you need to say thanks to? How can you say thanks?

- a. Write a note
  - b. Give a card
  - c. Say thanks
  - d. Give a small gift of appreciation
  - e. Other....
- (Discuss in fours)*

5. In our society who usually never gets a thank you: E.g. cleaners, waitresses, kitchen hands, cooks, secretaries. How can we go out of our way to thank people? *(Discuss in threes – different people).*
6. Being thankful does not come easily or naturally. It is hard to be thankful when we are tired, depressed or homesick. There is a famous person in the Bible called Paul. He was in prison because of his faith (he believed in Jesus). He suffered many things and this is what he wrote:  
*Always be kind to each other and to everyone else. Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all situations, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 CEV)*

How can we be joyful and give thanks in all situations? Is this impossible? Why or why not?

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**DETERMINATION**

**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. Today 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. Did you watch the race this afternoon? Which horse won?
2. Many people gamble on horse racing. Today millions of dollars was spent on this race. Is gambling in your country legal or illegal? Do you agree with your country's laws about gambling?
3. What kind of things do people in your country bet on? E.g. horse racing, soccer matches...
4. The Melbourne Cup is a handicap race. This means that 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 CEV). 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. He endured the shame of being nailed to a cross, because he knew that later on he would be glad he did. Now he is seated at the right side of God's throne! So keep your mind on Jesus, who put up with many insults from sinners. Then you won't be discouraged and give up."***

**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 had weights to slow them down. What are your weights in your life at the moment? Take the time now to write down a quick list of what is slowing you down at the moment, then share with a partner.
2. What is the race you are running at the moment? (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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## ENGLISH CORNER MENU

*Learning English Through Discussion*

**What type of language learner are you?**

There are many ways to learn English. Research shows that there are two main types of language learners. Today in English corner you will find out what type of language learner you are and some ways to improve your language learning.

1. In pairs ask each other the following questions:

	Usually	Sometimes	(Almost never)	Don't know
1. Do you have a good memory for new words?				
2. Do you hate making mistakes?				
3. Do you like to memorise new grammar rules, words, etc?				
4. Did/do you enjoy being in a class?				
5. Did/do you get good results in grammar tests?				

How to calculate your score:

Score: 3 points for each **Usually**  
 2 points for each **Sometimes**  
 1 point for each **Almost never or never**  
 0 points for **Don't know**

Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Add up your score. Look at the Learning Styles sheet to see what learning style you have. What do you think? Discuss with a partner.

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## Learning Styles

### Score: 0-4 Not sure?

This means you have not thought about the way you learn. To know more about this can be very useful in helping you to be a better language learner.

#### **Suggestion:**

You can find out some general information about learning languages by looking at the 2 different learning styles. Try to get to know your learning style.

### Score: 4 - 8 Relaxed?

You seem to learn languages quite easily. You sometimes think, you should be learning more grammar rules but you don't enjoy studying grammar.

#### **Suggestions:**

Try finding time to study:

- Try to organise a regular time for learning.
- You probably need to correct yourself more. Ask other people to help correct your errors.

### Score: 9-11 A Mixture

Many people are a mixture and learn in different ways at different times.

#### **Suggestions:**

Look at the descriptions for Analytic and Relaxed and see what is helpful for you.

### Score: 12-15 Analytic

You may feel it is very important to never make mistakes. You like to have a lot of thinking time before you speak and write.

#### **Suggestions**

You could improve your fluency by:

- trying to speak more. For example, try to talk to as many people as possible. On the bus, with other students, shopping, at church.
- stop worrying too much about your mistakes. Trying to be correct all the time is hard work. Remember that the people you speak to won't be listening for your mistakes, but for what you are trying to say.

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## ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

### What type of language learner are you?

1. Today we did a learning style activity. What learning style were you - analytic or relaxed?
2. Language learning is hard work. You need to know your language goals. Why are you in Australia studying English?
  - to be successful in the future
  - to travel
  - to meet new people
  - because everyone else is studying English
  - to get a better job in the future
  - to think about my life
  - to have a break from my life in my country
  - to make my parents happy
3. Sometimes we get tired of work or study. What can motivate us to work hard or study hard? In the Bible it says:

**“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for God, not for people.  
(Colossians 3:23) (CEV)**

- a) What does whatever mean?
- b) What does ‘with all your heart’ mean?
- c) How does working for God and not for people effect your motivation? Who are you working for?
  - Yourself?
  - Your parents?
  - Your society?
  - God?

### Vocabulary

**Style:** noun. The way of doing something that is typical for a particular person. *Your learning style.*  
**Break.** noun. When you stop an activity for a short time.  
**Motivate.** Verb. to make someone enthusiastic about doing something.  
**Motivation.** Noun. Enthusiasm for doing something.  
**Whatever.** Anything or everything.  
**With all your heart.** Used to say that you feel or do something very strongly.

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*Learning English Through Discussion*

### Who is God?

Many students are surprised to hear that Australia is not a Christian country. However in recent surveys, the majority of Australians believe in a personal God. But who is this God?

#### HOT TOPICS

1. Have you ever thought about the meaning of life? Why are we here? Choose from the following options.....
  - to populate the earth
  - to survive to an old age
  - to improve the human race
  - to achieve wealth, health and happiness
  - to love others
  - to party hard and live for the day
  - to know God
  - to find out my purpose for living
  - for no reason at all
2. The choices you made above affect the way you live your life. For example, if you chose: "to improve the human race" - you might choose a career in science or research or health. Or if you chose: "to survive to an old age" - you may be interested in healthy living or not taking too many risks. **Look at the options you chose. How does it affect the way that you live - your career, your lifestyle...etc?**
3. What different views of God have you come in contact with?
4. Bette Midler sang a popular song called, "God is watching us from a distance". (Maybe someone can sing it for you in the group!). Do you think God is a distant, non-personal being?

In the Bible it describes the God who is there:

*God made the world and everything in it. He is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in temples built by human hands. He doesn't need help from anyone. He gives life, breath, and everything else to all people. From one person God made all the nations who live on earth, and he decided when and where every nation would be.*

*God has done all this, so that we will look for him and reach out and find him. He isn't far from any of us and he gives us the power to live, to move, and to be who we are. We are his children.*

(Acts 17: 24-28) (CEV)

1. Who is God and what is He like?
2. What is humanity's relationship with God?

#### Vocabulary

**Populate:** verb: to make more of something.  
**Purpose:** noun: why you do something - the reason.  
**Risks:** the possibility of something bad happening  
**Views:** noun - your opinion  
**Non-personal:** not personal, not relating to people.  
**Built:** past of build - made.  
**Reach out:** to take hold of.

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  - to survive to an old age
  - to improve the human race
  - to achieve wealth, health and happiness
  - to love others
  - to party hard and live for the day
  - to know God
  - to find out my purpose for living
  - for no reason at all
2. The choices you made above affect the way you live your life. For example, if you chose: "to improve the human race" - you might choose a career in science or research or health. Or if you chose: "to survive to an old age" - you may be interested in healthy living or not taking too many risks. **Look at the options you chose. How does it affect the way that you live - your career, your lifestyle...etc?**
3. What different views of God have you come in contact with?
4. Bette Midler sang a popular song called, "God is watching us from a distance". (Maybe someone can sing it for you in the group!). Do you think God is a distant, non-personal being?

In the Bible it describes the God who is there:

*God made the world and everything in it. He is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in temples built by human hands. He doesn't need help from anyone. He gives life, breath, and everything else to all people. From one person God made all the nations who live on earth, and he decided when and where every nation would be.*

*God has done all this, so that we will look for him and reach out and find him. He isn't far from any of us and he gives us the power to live, to move, and to be who we are. We are his children*

(Acts 17: 24-28) (CEV)

1. Who is God and what is He like?
2. What is humanity's relationship with God?

#### Vocabulary

**Populate:** verb: to make more of something.  
**Purpose:** noun: why you do something - the reason.  
**Risks:** the possibility of something bad happening  
**Views:** noun - your opinion  
**Non-personal:** not personal, not relating to people.  
**Built:** past of build - made.  
**Reach out:** to take hold of.

**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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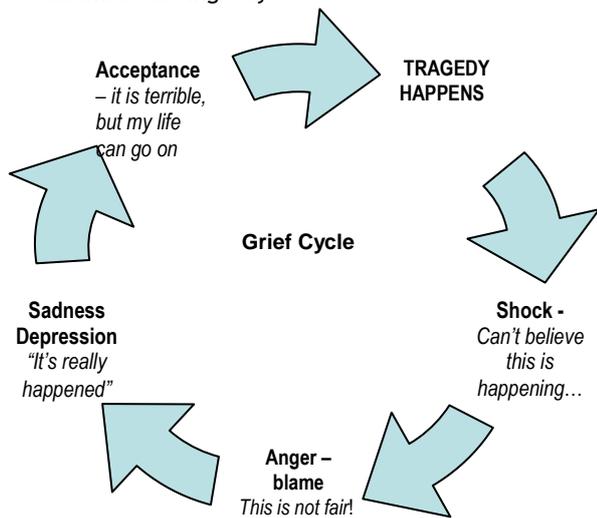
**TRAGEDY**

Today's topic is on tragedy and how we respond when something very bad happens in our lives or to other people.

*Tragedy: an event or situation, which is very sad, often involving death.*

**HOT TOPICS**

1. This week we learnt of the South Korean aid workers taken hostage in Afghanistan, and the killing of their Pastor. What do you know about this? Discuss.
2. In other news we heard of the Iraqi soccer team fans were who killed by two car bombs. In a rare moment of celebration, tragedy strikes again. Such tragedies make you feel sick in the stomach. What other tragedies have made you feel this way. *For example: The Boxing Day Tsunami....*
3. When something terrible happens we usually respond in the following way:



Talk about this cycle with a partner - when have you felt like this?

4. In life, everyone will experience some kind of tragedy. In the Bible it talks about how we can respond to tragedy and find a hope beyond tragedy. In the book of Isaiah it says (*break into threes and read*):

Person 1: Why do you complain that God doesn't know your troubles or care if you suffer bad things?  
 Person 2: Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The Lord is the eternal ting God; Creator of the earth.  
 Person 3: He never grows tired or weary.  
 Person 1: No one understands his thoughts.  
 Person 2: The Lord gives strength to those who are tired.  
 Person 3: Even young people get tired, then stumble and fall -  
 Person 1: But those who trust in God for help will find new strength.  
 Person 2: They will be strong like eagles, soaring upward on wings.  
 Person 3: They will run and not get weary.

5. Have you felt weak, exhausted, tired and weary? Where do you get your hope from to keep going?

**Vocabulary**

**Complain:** to say something is wrong  
**Suffer:** to experience pain or something bad  
**Everlasting:** last forever  
**Weary or exhausted:** very tired  
**Renewed:** starting again in a stronger way.

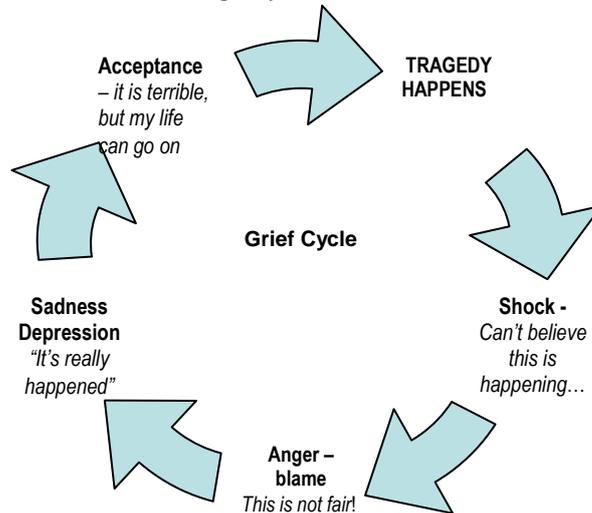
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WORK – Labour Day

**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 or May Day in your country? What are the typical working hours in your country?

*The many meanings of work.....*

**A. Work (Job)**

1. Do you have a part-time job in Australia? 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*)

**B. Work (Succeed)**

1. What are you plans for your time in Australia?
  - a. Learn English?
  - b. Meet international and Aussie friends?
  - c. Get a job?
  - d. Travel?
  - e. Experience new things?
  - f. Think about your life and purpose?
  - g. 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*).

**C. Work (effort)**

1. How much **work** do you put into:
  - a. Studying English?
  - b. Meeting new people?
  - c. Going to new places?

Do you feel like giving up? How do you keep going? (*In threes discuss*).

**D. Work (Attitude)**

Many people learning English, have to find a part-time job. They do work they have never done in their own country – maybe cleaning, gardening, 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?

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**Multi-culturalism**

Around Australia there are many multi-cultural festivals. The Australian Government supports this event to promote and celebrate Multiculturalism in our community.

What is multi-culturalism? 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 20 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 multi-cultural? Why or why not? What other cultures are living in your country?

2. The Multi-cultural debate. Break your group into two teams. **Multi-culturalism is a good thing. Team 1**, you have to **agree** with this statement. Together discuss reasons why multi-culturalism 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 we 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 multi-culturalism 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:

"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? If believing in God goes beyond culture, can you define who you are? I am...

**Vocabulary**

**Faith:** To believe in someone or something.  
**United:** joined together.

Quiz answers: 1. T 2. F – 200. 3. T. 4. Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic

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**Certainty**

Around the world we see the price of shares in stock markets around the world crash (drop suddenly) and a terrible earthquake in Peru. It is difficult to predict or be certain about the future. Today's topic is about certainty....

**Hot topics**

1. Have you ever invested or do you know of anyone who invests in the share market? *In pairs discuss.*
2. In your country, what do people invest in? *In different pairs.*
  1. Banks
  2. Real estate
  3. Overseas companies
  4. Shares
  5. Lotteries
3. Making a good investment is about trying to predict what is going to happen in the future. If you had one million dollars, given to you to invest, what would you invest your money in? Why? *In threes discuss.*

4. What do you think is going to happen in the future to:

- The global economy
  - Market downturn (the economy will get worse)
  - The rich will get richer and the poor will get poorer
  - Sharing of resources
- The environment
  - global warming
  - more extreme weather
  - natural disasters
  - the world will work together to protect the environment
- Energy resources
  - Wars will be fought over oil sources
  - New energy sources will be found and replace oil e.g. wind ,solar, nuclear energy

7. Are you optimistic (positive) about the future or do you think it is all doom and gloom (negative) - the world is getting worse. 'Why or why not?' *Discuss in pairs.*

8. Investing is so difficult because we don't know what is going to happen in the future. A common saying in English is 'The only thing that is certain in life are death and taxes' Do you have a similar saying in your country and do you agree with this saying?

One man was certain about his future, his name was Isaiah. He had a dream about what God was going to do in the future. In his dream, God promises Isaiah a bright future for those who believe in him. His dream is found in the Bible:

"I (God) am creating a new heavens and earth; everything of the past will be forgotten. ...Babies will no longer die in infancy, and all people will live out their life span. People will build houses and get to live in them – someone else will not use them. They will enjoy the things that they have worked for. The work they do will be successful, and their children will not meet with disaster. Wolves and lambs will eat together; lions will eat straw, as cattle do, and snakes will no longer be dangerous. I the Lord have spoken!"

9. What things did Isaiah dream about? What kind of future is it?

**Vocabulary**

**Certainty:** to be sure

**Invest:** to put money into something to make more money.

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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 got 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 going well.

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 Australia
- Having a girl friend/boy friend
- 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  
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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? 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?

When we think of our mothers we are thankful to them for the time they carried us in the womb and the pain they experienced giving birth to us. 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 marvellous! 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!"  
*Psalms 139:13-16.*

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

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

9. Is it possible to be content with how you are made?

### Vocabulary:

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

**Typical:** usual

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

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? 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?

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

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Last Sunday was 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 it? 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...
4. (*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?
5. (*In pairs*) Describe your father. What does he look like? What does he do? What is his personality?
6. How are you like (similar to your father)? How are you different?
7. (Divide your group into girls and boys).  
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?
8. 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."
9. What is unconditional love? Is it possible? Have you ever been loved unconditionally?
10. (*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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## Fear- Sickness

'Killer Flu Hits Australia'. The biggest topic in our newspapers at the moment is about the flu. A four-year-old boy and a 37-year-old man have died recently because of this influenza. People are fearful they may catch this flu. Today's topic is about Fear...

**Fear: (noun).** To be worried or frightened that something bad might happen.

### Hot Topics

1. What are some of the symptoms of influenza and how have you been feeling lately? *In threes.*

Sore throat      aches and pains      runny nose  
Headachedizzy      cough

3. The Newspapers have had headlines such as 'Killer Flu strikes again'. Discuss in threes how people feel after reading these newspaper articles. People (I) feel .....worried/ cautious/ panicky/ apprehensive/ a little bit scared/ scared/ petrified/ anxious/ afraid/ vulnerable....

Many people are fearful of getting this type of influenza. Normally people with influenza symptoms just take a headache tablet and don't see a doctor. But this time Australia hospitals have been inundated (very busy) with people with normal flu symptoms and some pharmacies (drug stores) have run out of medicine.

4. In the last few years there have been many terrible illnesses spread across the world such as SARS and the Bird flu. What precautions has your country taken against or did take against SARS and the Bird flu?

5. When you get the flu or a cold – what do you do to get better?

5. Some people are afraid of spiders, flying, or fear of doing exams. What thing or action are you most afraid of?

I am most afraid of.....

I fear....

6. If you are afraid of something, how do you overcome your fear?

- Drink lots of beer and forget about it?
- Share your fear with others.
- Where a special amulet (lucky charm), or carry something to protect you from bad things.
- Work and try harder to overcome your fear (just do it)
- Find out more information and learn more about your fear.
- Cry out to God
- Other

In the Bible, a King called David said:

*"I sought God and he answered me, he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. The poor man called, and the Lord heard him, he saved him out of all his troubles." Psalm 34:4-6.*

7. Is it possible for God to hear us and to do something for us? Have you ever experienced God's help?

8. We usually feel ashamed if we have done something wrong. What did David mean by 'those who look to God are radiant and not covered with shame'?

### Vocabulary

**Radiant:** shine

**Shame:** feeling bad about something we have done.

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### Vocabulary

**Radiant:** shine

**Shame:** feeling bad about something we have done.

**Fear - Halloween**

Introduce yourselves and name one thing you are afraid of. For example, *I am afraid of....because...*

This week is Halloween. Around the shops are many bats, witches, jack-o-lanterns.....So today's topic is about fear...

**Fear: (noun).**To be worried or frightened that something bad might happen.

**Hot Topics**

1. In your country do you have Halloween or another festival or something similar? What do you do on that day? *In threes of different nationalities (if possible) discuss.*
2. Do you like horror movies? Why or why not? *In pairs.*
3. Do you believe in ghosts or evil spirits? *Change pairs.*

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 into the Jewish meeting place and started teaching. Everyone was amazed at his teaching because he taught with authority and not like the teachers of the Law of Moses. Suddenly a man with an evil spirit in him entered the meeting place and yelled:

Man: Jesus, what do you want with us? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are! You are God's Holy one!

Narrator: Jesus told the evil spirit:

Jesus: Be quiet, and come out of the man!

Narrator: The spirit shook the man and gave a loud scream and left. Everyone was completely surprised and started saying to one another:

Person 1: What is this?

Person 2: It must be some kind of powerful teaching!

Person 1: Even the evil spirits 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. Who 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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Leadership

This weekend Sydney hosted the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) meeting where 21 of the world leaders met. Millions of dollars was spent on security, meetings, gala lunches, dinners and entertainment for the world leaders. This week's topic is about leadership and the qualities of a leader.

Hot topics

1. Name four leaders who attended the APEC meeting.
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
3. 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.
4. Who do you think is a good leader? What type of person are they?  
 just  
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5. 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.

6. 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.

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Global Warming

Al Gore the producer and presenter in the movie, 'An Inconvenient Truth' was awarded a Noble Prize for his work for the environment. 'An Inconvenient Truth' describes the problems of Global warming. It is called 'an inconvenience' because we have to change the way we do things if we are to stop Global warming. Today's topic is about inconvenient truths facing us today and how we respond to them.

**Inconvenient Truth 1: Global Warming**

1. The Movie *Inconvenient Truth* made some claims about global warming. In small groups read and discuss each claim.

**a. Heat waves will be more frequent and more intense as temperatures rise.** What are the hottest (maximum) temperatures in your country? What do people do when your city has a heat wave? Is your city getting hotter?

**b. Global sea levels could rise by more than 20 feet (6 metres) with the loss of shelf ice in Greenland and Antarctica, devastating coastal areas worldwide over the next 100 years.** Would your country be affected if the sea level rose more than 6 metres? What other countries in the world may be effected? E.g. nearly the whole of Bangladesh would be under water...How should the world respond?

**c. According to the film, the number of Category 4 and Category 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: Australia's Drought**

a. Australia is on Level 4 restrictions. This means people can only water their gardens by a bucket 3 times a week. How are you changing your water use habits?

- a. brushing your teeth
- b when you take a shower
- c. when you flush the toilet
- d. when you wash the dishes...

**Inconvenient Truth 3: Australia's Traffic/Public Transport Crisis.**

Australia is the fastest growing city in Australia. There are more traffic jams and over-crowded buses. Has catching buses in Australia been inconvenient? Tell us a public transport experience you have had in Australia. How is the public transport system different in your city?

**Inconvenient Truth 4: We are not perfect.**

We all know we are not perfect. In fact, there are some things we hope nobody will find out about us. We have all done some bad things in our life. This is an inconvenient truth. Think about this passage in the Bible: All of us have sinned (done bad things) and fall short of God's Glory (Romans 3:23). How do you deal with this inconvenient truth? Choose one or more

- A. Try to forget all the bad things I have done...
- B. Try and do extra good things to balance the bad things I do...
- C. Try to always be good...
- D. Ask God for forgiveness...
- E. 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.

**Inconvenience:** (noun): when something is not convenient or caused difficulty.

**Forgiveness:** to decide not to be angry with someone or punish them. To forgive someone.

**Confess:** Admit something.

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## ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

### Gifts

This weekend 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 Australia \_\_\_\_\_
  - 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. How old are the following well-known people? *In threes have a guess!* Tom Cruise? Kevin Rudd? The person next to you? Buddha? Jackie Chan? Confucius? Angelina Jolie? Jesus?
8. In your country, do you celebrate a birthday for someone famous? Whose birthdays do you celebrate? *In threes.*
9. In Australia we celebrate the Queen's birthday and the birth of Jesus. Both are public holidays. 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*

What does this mean? Discuss.

#### Vocabulary

**Eternal:** lasts forever

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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 Australia \_\_\_\_\_
  - 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. How old are the following well-known people? *In threes have a guess!* Tom Cruise? Kevin Rudd? The person next to you? Buddha? Jackie Chan? Confucius? Angelina Jolie? Jesus?
8. In your country, do you celebrate a birthday for someone famous? Whose birthdays do you celebrate? *In threes.*
9. In Australia we celebrate the Queen's birthday and the birth of Jesus. Both are public holidays. 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.*

What does this mean? Discuss.

#### Vocabulary

**Eternal:** lasts forever

Grace

*Amazing Grace* is the title of a movie. The movie tells the story of how slave trading was stopped in Brittan. 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 voyage, 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            - remorse  
 - joy                - amazement  
 - happiness      - gratefulness  
 - regret           - Other...

- 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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This weekend is the start of the River festival. 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 yourself 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:** Lord, 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 and 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)

**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, all their sins have been forgiven – so when they go under the water, it is like their sins have been washed clean.

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**Chapter**

**7**

## **The Jesus Series**

## 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...

*Today we begin a 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.*

### JESUS THE HEALER

The story begins when Jesus was around 30 and began to go around teaching and healing many 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.

## A Paralysed Man

*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 are 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?

# LESSON 2 JESUS TEACHES

## HOT TOPICS

1. Today's story is about Jesus the teacher. Describe one of your favourite teachers. Why were they good? What makes a good teacher?
2. In your country do people believe in evil spirits? What do people do to protect themselves from the evil spirits? For example – wear a special necklace etc.

*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 Lesson...

The story begins when Jesus was around 30 and began to go around teaching and healing many people. Here is one story from the Bible:

### Vocabulary

**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.

**Destroy:** to damage badly so it no longer exists.

**Shook:** to move something with short quick movements from side to side or up and down

**Obey:** to do what one is told.

## A Man With an Evil Spirit

Mark 1:21 – 28 (CEV)

**Narrator:** Jesus and his disciples went to the town of Capernaum. Then he went into the Jewish meeting place and started teaching. The people who heard him were amazed at the way he taught, for he wasn't like the other teachers. He taught with authority.

Suddenly a man with an evil spirit in him entered the meeting place and yelled:

**Man:** Jesus from Nazareth, what do you want with us? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are! You are the God's Holy messenger.

**Narrator:** Jesus told the evil spirit

**Jesus:** Be quiet and come out of the man!

**Narrator:** The spirit shook him. Then it gave a loud shout and left. The people were all so amazed and kept saying to each other,

**Person 1:** What is this?

**Person 2:** It must be some new kind of powerful teaching!

**Person 1:** And the evil spirits obey him!

**Narrator:** And news about Jesus spread quickly all over Galilee.

### Discussion (in changing pairs)

1. Why were people amazed at Jesus' teaching?
2. How was Jesus different from other religious teachers?
3. Who did the Evil spirits say Jesus was?
4. The people were surprised at Jesus' method of teaching. He did not quote the thoughts of other teachers. He spoke with authority, "I say to you..." Where did Jesus get his authority?
5. Do you know about anything Jesus taught? Share with the group what you have heard.

# LESSON 3 JESUS FORGIVES

## A Woman Caught in Adultery

Today we continue our 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 and why he is so famous throughout the world. You will also learn some vocabulary associated with these special events.

### JESUS FORGIVES

The story begins when Jesus was around 30 and began to go around teaching and healing many people. Today's story is about a woman caught having sex with a man who is not her husband and Jesus' response to her.

### Hot Topics

There has been a lot of news coverage over the pending capital punishment of an Australian drug smuggler caught in Singapore. He is due to be hung this Friday morning.

1. Do you have capital punishment in your country? Do you agree or disagree with capital punishment? *(In threes discuss).*
2. In your country is it a crime to commit adultery (to have sex with someone who is not your husband/wife)? Is there any punishment for adultery in your country?

### 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 Leader:** Teacher (*Jesus*), this woman was caught having sex with a man who is not her husband (adultery).

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

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

**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 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?

# LESSON 4 JESUS IS GOD

## 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...

Today we continue our Easter series of lessons. Christmas and Easter are the two main festivals in Australia. To understand the importance of these festivals you need to know more about Jesus and why he is so famous. Through these lessons you will learn why these festivals are so important and some important vocabulary associated with these special events.

*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.

### Discussion

1. What was surprising in this story?
2. How did Peter's life change after this event?
3. Can you think of one event that has changed your life or influenced you?

**Chapter**

**8**

## **Christmas Lesson Series**

## The Christmas Story Part 1... The Announcement

### English Corner

### Hot Topics

**The next 3 lessons are about the real 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.



**The Birth of Jesus**

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.

Lk. 1:26-38; Mat. 1:18-25 (DB)

**Narrator1:** 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.

**Narrator2:** 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)
3. What does the name Jesus mean? What does your name mean? (in threes)
4. How is this pregnancy different from other pregnancies?
5. God is 'with us' - what does that mean? How does this affect the way we live?

## Vocabulary Cards for Christmas Story Part 1.

<p><b>Engaged</b></p> <p>Promised to be married</p>	<p><b>Embarrassed</b></p> <p>Someone who is feeling shy or ashamed.</p>
<p><b>Angel</b></p> <p>A spiritual creature, like a human with wings who lies in heaven with God.</p>	<p><b>Confused</b></p> <p>Unable to understand something</p>
<p><b>King</b></p> <p>A male ruler of a country</p>	<p><b>Servant</b></p> <p>Someone who works for or serves another person</p>
<p><b>Pregnant</b></p> <p>A woman who is expecting a baby</p>	<p><b>Dream</b></p> <p>To experience images and events in your mind while you are sleeping</p>

## The Christmas Story Part 2 ... The Birth

### 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



The Birth of Jesus

#### Introduction

Last week we read about the story of Mary and Joseph and the naming of Jesus—meaning God is with us. Today we are going to read about the special visitors Mary and Joseph had after Jesus was born.

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 cloth and 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:** Suddenly a 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 praising God 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?

## The Christmas Story Part 3... The Wisemen

### English Corner Christmas continued...

#### Hot Topics

The week before Christmas is a very busy week for many Australians. They need to finish Christmas shopping, go to their work/friends Christmas parties, prepare for the holidays and get ready for the feast on Christmas day. This is very different from the original or first Christmas.

1. What things have you been doing this week? Is this the same or different from what you usually do in your country?

#### Vocabulary

**Wise:** a wise person is able to use their knowledge and experience to make good decisions and give good advice.

**King Herod:** King of the Jews. He was a cruel King. He executed one of his wives and two of his sons. After Jesus was born, he ordered all male babies under 2 years old in Bethlehem to be killed.

**Worship:** to show respect to God by praising him.

**Chief Priests:** The leading priests.

**Messiah:** the promised saviour of God.

**Prophet:** someone sent by God to tell people what to do or say what will happen in the future.

**Search:** look carefully

**Thrilled:** very excited about something.

**Knelt:** to kneel down.



### The Wise Men Mat 2:1-11 (CEV)

You will need: Narrator 1 and Narrator 2, Wisemen 1, 2 and 3, King Herod, and the Chief Priest.

- Narrator 1: When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was King. During this time some wise men from the East came to Jerusalem and said,
- Wisemen 1,2,3: "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."
- Narrator 2: When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod brought together the chief priests and asked them:
- King Herod: Where will the Messiah be born?"
- Chief Priest: "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote, 'Bethlehem in the land of Judea, You are very important among the towns of Judea. From your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.'"
- Narrator 1: Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star, and told them:
- King Herod: "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too."
- Narrator 2: The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star.
- Narrator 1: When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshipped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him.
- Narrator 2: Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, as he wanted to kill the child, and they went back home by another road.

#### Review

You will be given a part of the Christmas story. You have to work out the order of the story as a group and re-tell your part of the story (if you need help you can look at the back of the card for the story information).

#### Discussion Questions

1. The wise Men brought gifts that matched Jesus' character and work. **Gold:** was the gift for a king. b) **Frankincense** was the gift for a priest c) **Myrrh** is the gift of one who is to die. What do these gifts tell us about Jesus?
2. Jesus was born in a very humble place (an animal's stable) but he was God's chosen Messiah. What does this say about the kind of Messiah he is? What does Christmas mean to you.

## Mary and the Angel



Angel Gabriel appears

About two thousand years ago, in the town of Nazareth, there lived a young woman named Mary. She was engaged to be married to Joseph, a carpenter. One day an angel appeared before her and told her she had been chosen to have a special baby. The baby would be God's son and she must call him Jesus.

## Journey to Bethlehem



The Journey

Soon after the angel's visit, Mary and Joseph were married. Mary was due to have her baby when they were told they had to go on a long journey to Bethlehem, which was where Joseph came from. This was because they had to pay a special tax. Mary had to ride on a donkey for a few days over the hills of Gallilee.

## No Room at the Inn



No Room at the Inn

At last Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem. It was crowded with other people who needed to pay their taxes. Mary was very tired and needed a place to stay. At each inn, the story was the same. There was no room for them. Eventually, one kind innkeeper said he had a stable where he kept his animals. They were welcome to stay there.

## Jesus is Born



Jesus is Born

And so it was that a few hours later, Mary gave birth to her son in that stable. She wrapped Jesus in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger full of hay.

## Shepherds hear News



Shepherds are Afraid

At the same time, on a hillside overlooking Bethlehem, some shepherds were watching over their sheep. A bright light appeared in the sky. They were very afraid. It was an angel sent by God. The angel told them not to be afraid, because he had some good news. He said the Son of God had been born and they would find Him in Bethlehem

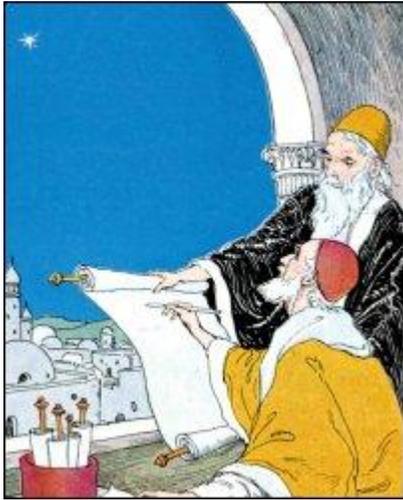
## Shepherds give Gifts



Shepherds give Gifts

The shepherds wanted to go and see the baby. When they arrived at the stable, they were filled with joy at seeing Jesus lying in the manger. They knelt down and worshipped Him. They told Mary and Joseph how the angel had appeared in the sky and told them that Jesus was to be the Saviour of the world.

## A New Star Appears



A New Star in the Sky

Far away in the East, Wise Men saw a new star shining high in the sky. These men studied the stars and they knew this was a very special star. They studied their scrolls where it said that whenever a bright new star appeared it meant that a great ruler had been born.

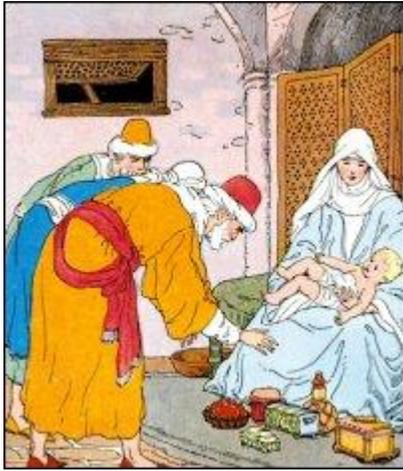
## Following the Star



Wise Men Follow the Star

The Wise Men decided to find this new ruler. They went to Jerusalem to see King Herod, as they thought the baby would be in the palace. They asked to see the child that would be King of the Jews. The king was troubled. He thought this new king may take away his throne. He told them to return when they had found the baby so that he could worship the child himself.

## Wise Men give Gifts

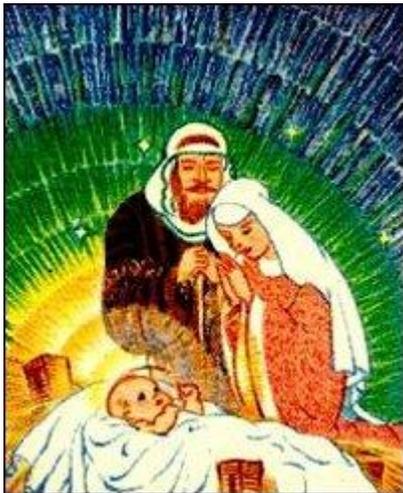


The Wise Men Give Gifts

The Wise Men set off to find the baby. They were guided by the star to the stable in Bethlehem. Here they knelt down and worshipped Jesus. They gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. That night, the men had the same dream where an angel warned them that King Herod wanted to kill Jesus and told them not to go back to his palace.

## Jesus is Safe

**topmarks**



Jesus is Safe

The Wise Men went back to their own country without calling to see Herod. Soon after Joseph had a dream where an angel told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt as King Herod had ordered that Jesus be killed. They left Bethlehem right away. When the wise men did not return, Herod ordered that baby boys in Bethlehem be killed. They did not find Jesus as he was safe.

# 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

<b>Narrator:</b>	tells the story
<b>Prophet:</b>	someone sent by God to tell people what to do, or to say what will happen in the future.
<b>Virgin:</b>	someone who has never had sex
<b>engaged:</b>	promised to marry
<b>Shepherd:</b>	a person who looks after sheep
<b>census:</b>	a counting of all the people
<b>manger:</b>	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** 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!

## 3. 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

## 4. 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

**Chapter**

**9**

## **Easter Lesson Series**

Why did people want to kill Jesus?

We have 3 weeks before the Easter festival. For English Corner we are beginning a series on Easter and the man behind Easter – Jesus. We have learnt that Jesus was a famous teacher, healer 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*. Mark 11.15-18 (DB)

**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 businesses 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.

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## ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion  
EASTER (2)

Last week we talked about Easter and what it means. The last few weeks we have also talked about Jesus' life. We have seen that Jesus came into the world with all the authority of God.

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? What are some things that Jesus taught? Why did people follow him?
2. 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** Mark 15: 16 – 39 (DB)

**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 are doing on Good Friday? (March 25th)?

### 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.

ENGLISH CORNER MENU  
Learning English Through Discussion  
EASTER (3)

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 Mark 16:1-8 (DB)

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

**Narrator:** 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.)

**Narrator:** 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; baptise 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. What are you doing on Good Friday?

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# Resources

## Bible References:

***We have found the following versions of the Bible particularly suited for ESL students.***

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Snow, Donald B. (2001). *English Teaching As Christian Mission: An Applied Theology*. Waterloo, Ont: Herald Press.

## Websites

[www.christianesl.com](http://www.christianesl.com)

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

## Dictionary Used

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### **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](mailto:englishcorner@aapt.net) for copies.

Ashley Hood (2012) . *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](mailto:englishcorner@aapt.net) for copies.

Kim Hood and Chris Neale (2012). *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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