



Who here likes good news? Stupid question isn't it – everyone loves good news... good news makes us smile, makes us laugh, and gets us excited.

Well I've got a note here from Ed and it's good news about holiday club. He says...

There's no school for a week
We've got 4 days of non-stop fun
We've got loads of games
We've got loads of activities
We're gonna find out loads about Jesus
We're gonna have a head exploding-ly brilliant time

PS. I'm so excited my head nearly exploded writing this note. Yours Ed!

That's good news isn't it? Exciting news! This week, holiday club's gonna be brilliant.

But do you know what – Jesus has got better news, bigger news, fantastic news – he's got news that comes from God and it doesn't get bigger or better than that.

God's news is the best and biggest news ever, ever, ever...

So do you wanna know what it is? Anyone want to know what God's massively exciting news is?

It's this....

1. God's superhero King has arrived!

Who here loves Superheroes – Batman, Superman, Spiderman, Mr Incredible. They're great, they protect people (Pictures of Superheroes) they stop evil (Pictures of Superheroes) they save the World.

They've got amazing powers (Pictures of Superheroes) and they do amazing things!

But do you know what the sad thing about Superheroes is - they're not real – we want them to be real, we'd love them to be real but they're not. (Picture of superman crossed out)

- We'd love it if Superman could swoop down from the sky and protect our families from bad things.
- We'd love it if Spiderman could help us when we're worried about school or homework.
- We'd love it if Mr Incredible could stop us getting sick.
- Or if 'dash' could make us fast for sports day

We'd love it. But the truth is, they can't.

And this is why Jesus' news from God is so good.

Because Jesus says 'the time has come' – the time has come for God to send a real life, walking, talking, Superhero to the World.

Forget Spiderman, forget Superman – God has sent a real superhero. Someone we can trust to help us when we're scared, someone who'll take away all illnesses, who'll protect his people from evil, and who'll even stop death.

And you know what, this superhero is a King. (Picture – "God's superhero king has arrived") That's how you can spot Him, he's God's superhero King come to rule with God's power.

That's what Jesus means when he says 'the kingdom of God is near.' He's saying God's superhero King has arrived

That's exciting news isn't it.

Do you wanna see him? Do you wanna know who he is?

Well you know what, the great thing about holiday club is - we've got four days to work out who he is, to see him and to get to know him for ourselves.

And so, this week, what we really need to do – if we're excited about this good news, if we want to see God's superhero King then we need to follow Jesus.

Just like the disciples did in our story. We need to follow Jesus if we want to see God's superhero King.



Talk: Day 2

Mark 2: 1-12

Theme: The paralytic's greatest weakness was his sin. Jesus greatest super power is that he can forgive all sin; because he is God himself.

Aim: Convince the children of their greatest weakness, and Jesus super power to forgive them

Props

- Images for superhero references
- Silhouette of man (cardboard cut-out – one side black, one side white)
- Picture of speech bubble, thoughts and hands
- Whiteboard marker pens and nail polish remover

Superheroes have super powers

Superman has a heap of super powers! (picture – Superman)

- Fly (picture – flying)
- See through walls (picture – seeing)
- Fire red hot lasers from his eyes (picture – lasers)
- Super strength (picture – lifting something heavy)

Superman also has a weakness

Kryptonite (picture – kryptonite)

Weaknesses are a real problem.

In today's story we're going to see that we have a weakness that we can't fix, In fact, every girl, boy, man and woman has a weakness.

Everyone has the same weakness.

But we also find out in today's true Bible story that Jesus' greatest super power is that he can fix our problem.

A few things have happened since yesterday's story- you can read about these things at home in Mark's Gospel.

Where ever Jesus went, crowds followed- he was amazing!

This was no different, he had gone into a house, and the people had followed.- on chairs, under tables, through windows, etc

If you had been there, as a member of the crowd. I wonder what you would have thought as the man was lowered down to Jesus? (picture – man lowered through roof)

Who is he?

What does he want to say to Jesus that is so important?

Why can't he walk in the front door like everyone else? Ah its so busy

And then the man settles on the floor. (picture – man on floor before Jesys)

(Whispers) We're about to find out.

Why's he not getting up?

Oh! He can't stand up. Oh. He can't stand up.

Do you know? At that moment every single person in the room knew why that man had come to see Jesus- no one needed to say anything. It was obvious. He had come to have his legs fixed.

(Put up man silhouette)

The man who came to Jesus, couldn't walk, couldn't run, couldn't swim, couldn't play football, couldn't play hide and seek, couldn't climb a tree. In fact the only thing he could do was lie down. everyone knew why he'd come.

He had come to have his legs fixed. Jesus was the only man who could have fixed the man's legs. Jesus had done amazing things like this for others

But, did you hear what Jesus' very first words to the man were?

You have to listen very carefully to what he said.

"Your sins are forgiven". (picture – speech Bubble with Jesus words)

That's odd. Maybe he hasn't spotted the man can't walk?

He'll see in a moment.

Silence

Oh, that's strange.

Its not that he hadn't spotted it, its that Jesus saw what no one else could see.

Jesus can see in us what no one else can see.

We're going to learn about the man's greatness weakness-
and Jesus' greatest super power

1. The man's greatest weakness was his sin (visual of teaching pt)

Jesus doesn't just see what we see, he doesn't just see what's on the outside: Jesus sees all the way through to the way people think and the way people feel.

And what Jesus saw in the man that day made him certain that his biggest problem wasn't that he couldn't walk. He had a much bigger problem. His big problem was "sin".

Let me explain what sin is.

(Turn man around to white side.)

God made people to love him.

You know, that's a great deal because God is terrific.

So not only were people made to live like God, they were made to live for God- always choosing to *speak*, to *think*, to *act* just as he would wish.

(Put up speech bubble, thought and hands. Write on them)

But none of us are like that. In fact there has never been a human to walk on this earth who was like that. And certainly every person in this room, has chosen to put themselves first instead of God.

(Cross out crowns from each.)

We're the only person that really counts.

That means we make choices that are wrong.

But much more importantly it means we're no longer friends with God. That's the big deal. That's what really gets on his goat.

(Write up some filth and dirt.)

Now I think we all know that this is the way it is.

If we've ever disobeyed our parents, or lost our temper playing sport or even the times when we've ignored what our friends would like and done it my way, we know what is like to make a bad choice. We also know how to make a good choice. But no matter how hard any of us try, we can't always get it right.

But that's not how we were meant to be, that's how Jesus was. That's not how God wants it.

None of us enjoyed thinking about that.

We try and keep all this on the inside where others can't see it.

But this is what Jesus sees.

It's what Jesus saw in the Paralyse man

It's what Jesus sees in us.

Jesus saw that the man's greatest weakness was his sin

Jesus sees that our biggest weakness is our sin.

We're not fast enough, we're not strong enough, we're not tall enough, we've not got enough friends, we've not got enough money, we've not got enough sweets, we're not clever enough, we're not good enough.

These are often the things that make us cry.

Sometimes we cry because we've fallen over, we've lost our Mum, but the things that make us really sad- are often the problems we think we've got.

Jesus says, as far as he's concerned, we've only got one problem worth bothering about. Sin.

2. Jesus' greatest superpower is that he can forgive (visual of teaching pt)

Now the teachers of the law were a smart bunch.

They had grown very angry

We know that because we know what they said, "Why does this fellow talk like that? Only God can forgive sins?"

(picture – speech Bubble with Jesus words)

They were right. I can't forgive you for choosing not to be friends with God.

Jesus can't forgive you for choosing not to be friends with God, unless... unless Jesus is God.

Only God can forgive this.

Jesus is God, so he can.

(Clean sin off the man with nail polish remover)

So Jesus had to find a way to prove that he could do this.

Jesus came up with a plan.

Jesus had said that the man's biggest problem was sin.

Jesus had said that he had forgiven the man's sin.

Jesus said that problem had gone.

Jesus could see that the problem had gone.

But no one else could see.

(Turn man around to black side.)

So how could Jesus prove that he really was God and he had forgiven sin?

But you can see if a paralysed man can be made to walk.

If Jesus could do a miracle like that, a miracle that no doctor could do, a miracle that only God could do, then the teachers of the law would know.

So Jesus, said, "But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins... I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home"

And he did.

(Stand man up.)

Jesus had shown everyone in a way that they could see that he was God.

Now the teachers of the law had seen it for themselves.

If he'd healed the man who couldn't walk, then he must have also healed the man's biggest problem- sin.

Pause. SLOW

That *shows* that Jesus is God.

Pause

He can fix us. We can be free. We can be forgiven.

Those things that make us really sad, they don't need to matter as much anymore, because we can be forgiven and loved completely by the King of the Universe.

Did you hear how the story finished?

"This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like his!""

Everyone was amazed. I'm not surprised!

They had never seen anything like this.

Have you seen it.

Have you seen our greatest weakness?

Have you seen Jesus' greatest superpower?



Talk: Day 3

Mark 8: 22-31

Props:

- 2 Pictures of eye test chart (clear and blurry versions)
- Picture of you/leader who has worn glasses as a child
- Optician glasses
- Bible
- PowerPoint/paper visuals of Talk points
- Visuals for 2nd point ([see below](#)).

How well can you see?

Often, opticians check how well you can see by making you stare at one of these. (*Pic – Clear eye test chart*)

Ever had to do that?

I must have looked at hundreds of them!

You see, I've been wearing glasses since I was just four years old!

That's me there when I was 5 or 6! (*Pic – child with glasses*) What a funny sight!

My eyes have always been a bit blurry!

(Pause and grab nasty opticians glasses)

And has an optician ever made you put these on? (*Put on world's worst glasses*)

I used to HATE them, I still do. They're the ugliest glasses in the WORLD!

But although they look ridiculous they're actually a bit clever.

You see, Opticians use them to slot in and test different lenses against your eye.

So, you stare straight ahead at the letters on the wall, they slot in different lenses, and they ask you questions like - which one is clearer - this one or this one?

(Pic – Blurry eye test chart)

They try one after the other

For a while everything is blurred
everything is foggy
everything is unclear

But then...

PING! (*Pic – Clear eye test chart*)

They drop in the perfect lens for your eyes and suddenly you can see everything clearly! It's brilliant!

(Pause)

Well, the two men in our story (*hold up Bible*) needed much more help than these glasses for them to see clearly.

They needed Jesus.

Firstly then ...

Jesus opened a blind man's eyes (reveal point on a big eye/glasses visual)

Now, I might not have always been able to see things perfectly clearly - but I have always been able to see.

Sadly, this was not the case for the first man in our story.

He's completely blind! He couldn't see the sunshine, flowers, his family, his house, and the clothes he was wearing. He couldn't even see a hand waved right in front of his face!

And no person, not even the best optician in the world, was able to heal him.

(Pause)

But Jesus did!

Jesus puts his hands together, spits on them - urrrgh and then puts them on the man's eyes and the man begins to see things!

He's able to make out shapes and people but everything's blurry!

So Jesus puts his hands on the man's eyes again and PING!

Everything's crystal clear!

The blurriness is gone, the man is totally healed.

Amazing isn't it?!

Only Jesus can make a blind man see.

(Pause)

Now, Mark tells us about this amazing miracle to help us understand the next part of the story.

You see, in the same way that Jesus opened the blind man's eyes, Mark wants us to understand that ...

Jesus opened Peter's eyes (reveal the second point on the visual)

Now Peter wasn't blind. He didn't even have glasses like me, he could see very well.

He could see the biggest letter on the board (and probably the smallest too), he could see the sunshine and flowers, he could see his family, and he would definitely have seen a hand being waved right in front of his face!

So what do I mean when I say Jesus opened Peter's eyes? ...

Well, do you remember from our passage who people thought Jesus was ...?

(Have a table with 2 columns)

Some thought that Jesus was John the Baptist - (bit of a rubbish idea as John the Baptist had recently died and had his head chopped off!) *(Add pic of John the Baptist to left column)*
 Some people thought that Jesus was Elijah - (a guy who'd been alive around 1000 years ago - come on guys!) *(Add pic of Elijah to left column)*
 And still others thought that Jesus was just one of the prophets - (Just one of God's messengers, not all that special really - were they serious?!) *(Add pic of a prophet to left column)*



Mark wants us to see that the people back in Jesus' day were blind like the blind man.

Their eyes might have been ok, but their brains just couldn't see who Jesus really was.

Their understanding of Jesus was all blurry and unclear.

(Add pic of "blind" man top of the column)

And the same is true today.

Many People are still blind to Jesus.

Many of our friends and family and even our teachers are blind to Jesus.

Like the people back then, they have very blurred and unclear ideas about who Jesus is.

They think that Jesus is just a good teacher. *(Add "good teacher" to left column)*

Just a good guy.

Just a magician. *(Add "magician" to left column)*

Just a wise man. *(Add "wise man" to left column)*

Maybe we think that too.

Peter was the same.

He was one of Jesus' closest friends but even he couldn't see who Jesus really was.

But then, Jesus opened Peter's eyes and took away Peter's blurred and unclear view of Him.

And like the blind man who was suddenly able to see, Peter was able to see Jesus crystal clearly.

Just look at what Peter sees...

He sees that Jesus is the Christ! *(Add "The Christ – promised rescuing king" to right column)*

God's promised rescuing King!

The one the prophets were pointing to!

The one everyone was waiting for!

The King of the universe!

Amazing isn't it?!

So, do you see why Mark puts these two stories next to each other in his book?

He tells us that Jesus heals the blind man to show us that only Jesus can open people's eyes to see him for who he really is *(Add pic of "seeing" man top of the right column)* the Christ, God's promised rescuing King.

So ...

If we believe today that Jesus is the King, it's because Jesus has performed a miracle in our lives and opened our eyes to the truth about Him!

Be excited about that! It's BIG! And thank Jesus for giving you eyes that can see Him!

And don't get all big headed that you can see Jesus for who he is when others can't.

In fact, pray and keep on praying that Jesus would open the eyes of your friends, family and teachers who are still blind to the truth that He's God's promised rescuing King.

It's the only way that they'll become Jesus' friends.

And finally, if you're here today and you're not sure about Jesus but you'd like to see him really clearly then ask for his help.

Pray that Jesus would open your blind and blurry eyes.

Pray that you'd see that He's The Christ. God's King. The King of the Universe.

He'd love to answer that!

Let's pray.



Talk: Day 4

Mark 15:1-39

Props:

- Pictures of “Horrible Histories” Book covers <http://www.hmag.co.uk/>
- Picture of “The Vile Victorians” by Terry Deary
- Picture of Finchley Baby Farmers
- PowerPoint/paper visuals of Talk points and sub-points (see below).

Aims

- To understand that Jesus’ death wasn’t just an unfortunate and horrible history but God’s amazing rescue plan
- To understand that on the cross, Jesus took all God’s anger at our sin upon himself so that we can now be friends with God.
- To trust in Jesus’ death and to be thrilled and thankful that Jesus brought us peace with God.

Intro - Horrible histories

Hands up if you have ever read a Horrible Histories book? (Pic - Horrible Histories)

They’re brilliant aren’t they!

I love them because they teach you the truth, what really happened in the past, **AND**, unlike other boring, school history books they don’t miss out all the gruesome, horrible bits!

Toilets, pooh, blood, gore – it’s all there in the horrible history books!

Now, I love Horrible Histories so much, I went to see a theatre production of the Vile Victorians (Pic - The Vile Victorians)

It was terrific! ...and I learnt loads!

For example... Have you heard the one about the fearsome Finchley baby farmers? Two horrible women who used to really hurt babies? (Pic – Finchley baby farmers)

Sounds awful doesn’t it!

How horrible is that! That’s a horrible history.

Well just a few days later after my trip to the theatre, I was on my sofa reading my Bible.

And I got to the bit about Jesus’ death in Mark’s gospel, the story we’ve heard today...

...and it got me thinking...

It got me thinking, is Jesus' death just a horrible history, just a bunch of gory facts, just another grim true story?

It's a **really** important question.

You see if the answer is YES - Jesus death is just a horrible history, then all of us here are wasting our time.

Jesus is just a poor bloke, one of many, that died on a cross around 2000 years ago. Everyone dies, so Jesus is just another dead bloke. Big deal!

But if the answer is NO, if there is more to Jesus' death than it simply being a horrible history then it's BIG, really BIG, utterly life-changing and definitely worth finding out about.

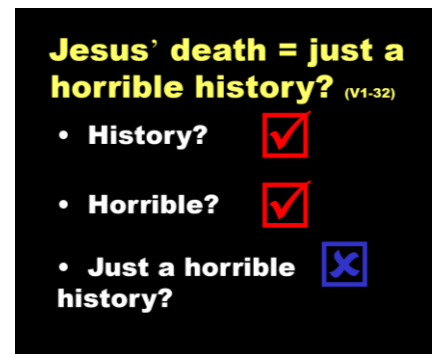
Which is what we're quickly going to do right now, so ...

1. Jesus' death = just a horrible history? (V1-32)

Well, what we read in Mark's Gospel about Jesus' death is definitely history because it's in the Bible.

So, is Jesus' death history? Yes! (Pic - "History" with tick next to it)

And what we read about Jesus' death in Mark's Gospel is definitely horrible. Let's look again at some of the horrible facts that Mark gives us...



It starts in Chapter 15

There's the unfair trial

The lies

The crowd shouting "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

The nasty, bullying soldiers

The mocking

The beating

The blows to the head

The spitting

The stripping

Then Jesus is nailed to the cross.

The pain is awful.

Is Jesus' death horrible? Yes! (Pic - "Horrible" with tick next to it)

So Jesus' death is definitely a horrible history

But is it **just** a horrible history? **No!**

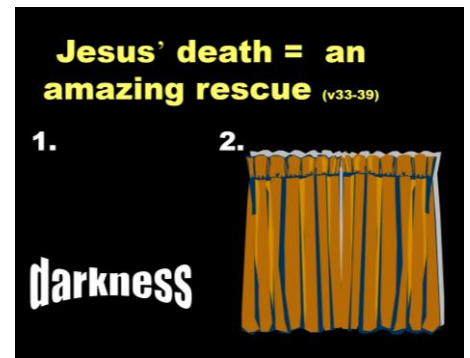
Mark gives us two big signs as we read on in Chapter 15 to show us that...

2. Jesus' death = an amazing rescue (v33-39)

The first big sign is darkness (Pic of cartoon eyes in the dark and/or switch off lights of room)

Mark tells us that at lunch time, slap, bang in the middle of the day, as Jesus was hanging on the cross, darkness came over the whole land for three hours.

Imagine how freaky that would have been! Bright shining, daylight one minute, then eerie darkness the next!



You'd be thinking, hey! What's going on? We're in the middle of a game of footie! I had a free-shot at goal! Why has God turned the lights out? What have we done to deserve this? It's not very nice is it?

(Lights up)

Well, the Bible tells us that darkness is a sign of God's anger at sin.

It's God's way of saying we've all got it wrong and I want you to know it.

But, wait a sec, who's God angry at?

It can't be Jesus? Jesus is God's perfect son! He's the hero not the villain!

Well here's the amazing truth!

The Bible teaches us that Jesus has taken **our** sin upon **himself**.

And so what we see here, as Jesus hangs on the cross this, is God pouring out his anger on Jesus for our sins.

God punishing Jesus, his perfect son, **instead of us**.

He faces God's anger so that we don't have to.

And that's not the only sign...

The second big sign that Mark gives us to help us see that Jesus' death is an amazing rescue is **the temple curtain** (Picture of temple curtain)

The temple curtain was a GIGANTIC, thick, heavy curtain (*bring out curtain*) that hung in the temple to separate the area where God lived in a special way called the Holy of Holies, from the rest of the Temple, where ordinary people hung out

It hung there like a massive no-entry sign that reminded everybody that sinful people could not be friends with a perfect, holy God. *No entry. You can't come in.*

Dirty people can't go near pure, clean God.

It was like a loud speaker blaring out - YOU CAN'T BE FRIENDS WITH GOD BECAUSE OF YOUR SIN! (Speak in microphone - PA turned up)

But Mark tells us that the very moment that Jesus took his last breath and died on the cross - God ripped this huge temple curtain in two, from top to bottom.

The enormous curtain came crashing down to the floor.

So why did God do this?

To show that Jesus had made it possible for you and me to be friends with God.

The big barrier, the big no-entry sign had gone.

It was like God was saying, "We can be friends now, and your sin is gone! You are now perfect in my eyes!"

Anybody who **trusts** in Jesus can be friends with the living, creating, ruling God of the universe!

So do you see, the darkness and the Temple curtain are two whopping signs from God that make it **clear** that Jesus was not just another horrible history, another horrible death.

They're proof that Jesus died to **rescue** us from our sins so that we can be great friends with God

The Roman soldier at the foot of Jesus' cross knew this
He'd seen hundreds of men die on a cross.

But Mark tells us that when he **heard** and **saw** all this, He said "surely this man was the Son of God".

The Roman soldier knew that Jesus' death was no ordinary death.

He knew that he'd seen something amazing.

Do we know that Jesus' death is amazing?

Because we've seen all the evidence.

Jesus' death is not just a horrible history.

The darkness shows that Jesus was punished, so that we can go free

The curtain shows that our greatest weakness- sin has been wiped out.

We can now be friends with the perfect, awesome God.



Talk: Day 5

Mark 10:17-31

School can be a bit rubbish sometimes can't it – you have to be good all the time, you have to follow a whole bunch of rules and do a load of work.

- Being good
- Keeping rules
- Doing lots of work

That's school!

But you know what – that's often what we think being a Christian's like – we think if

- We're Good
- We follow the rules – obey our parents
- And even if we do a bunch of God stuff - like read the Bible, go to Church

Then we'll be able to live with God forever in heaven.

Well you know what Jesus would say to that – he'd say that's rubbish.

In our story a rich man asks Jesus

'What must I do to live with God forever in heaven?'

It's a great question.

And this is Jesus answer...

Firstly, he says...

1. You don't have to be good!

You don't have to be good to live with God forever!

Who thinks this man is good.... David Beckham, Gordon Brown, Queen

Anyone here think they're good?

Well, you're wrong/you're right because Jesus says nobody's good except God.

And we've already learnt that haven't we? – We've already learnt that our greatest problem is sin – we kind of all agreed that.

Sin is a bad attitude to God which means we do things like...

- Get Angry with Mum and Dad,
- Brothers and sisters
- Say and do nasty things to others in the playground.

And you know what, that bad attitude to God means none of us are good.

So if you've got to be good to get into heaven none of us are going.

Which is why its absolutely brilliant news that Jesus says we don't have to be good to get into heaven.

Because it means we can go.

Imagine three of your friends, picture them in your head right now, and if you're a Christian here today then try to picture at least one friend who doesn't believe in Jesus.

Jesus says not one of the friends you're picturing right now is good.

Not one of them.

And if any of them think they can live with God forever in heaven because they're good – they're wrong.

And if any of us think that too we're wrong too.

None of us are good but the brilliant thing is we don't have to be to get into heaven.

Second thing Jesus says is...

2. You don't have to keep rules!

You don't have to keep rules to live with God in heaven forever.

Do you remember all the rules the rich man had followed - do not murder, do not steal, do not do this, do not do that.'

The rich man had kept them all.

Jesus says - 'One thing you lack' - what you talking about Jesus - I've kept all the rules what do you mean that's not enough.

One thing you lack!

Guys do you get it - Jesus says rule keeping isn't enough it doesn't get us into heaven.

That's fantastic news.

I went to Morocco on holiday (show a snap with Mohammed) chatting to this man who was our tour guide - he's a Muslim. Getting into heaven as a Muslim is all about following rules. He has to get up at 5am to pray - he has to it's a rule. He has to pray 5 times a day - he has to it's a rule.

He has to follow rules to get into heaven - but Jesus says we don't and that's fantastic.

Do you know we don't have to read our Bibles to go to heaven - we don't have to pray to go to heaven! We don't have to go to Church to go to heaven!

And if you're not a Christian here today and you think being a Christian's all about following rules - it's not! Being a Christian's much better than that.

So what do we have to do...?

Well, it's really, really simple we have to...

3. Follow Jesus our treasure!

Jesus tells this man get rid of your treasure here on earth, your money and I'll give you treasure in heaven.

Then follow me.

If we want to be in heaven we need to follow Jesus now.

Jesus is the only superhero who can heal our greatest problem sin, he's God's chosen rescuer King and he died on a cross to rescue us from God's anger so we could know and be friends with Him.

We need JESUS – there's nobody and nothing in our life more valuable than Him.

More valuable than money, more valuable than family, far more valuable than football, or films, or TV, or Nintendo, or cakes.

So if we want to go to heaven we've got to follow Him.

Follow Him like he's the most important person, most important thing in our life – follow Him as if losing him would be a total and utter disaster.

Forget trying to be good and trying to follow rules to get into heaven – it doesn't work – just follow Jesus.

Pray

As we go home I pray that we'll all ask God to help us see Jesus as our treasure.

And I pray that we'll keep on asking God to make Jesus more and more special to us everyday.

There's nobody and nothing more valuable than Him.

Help us not to think we can get into heaven by being good or following rules.

But help us to follow Jesus God's superhero King.