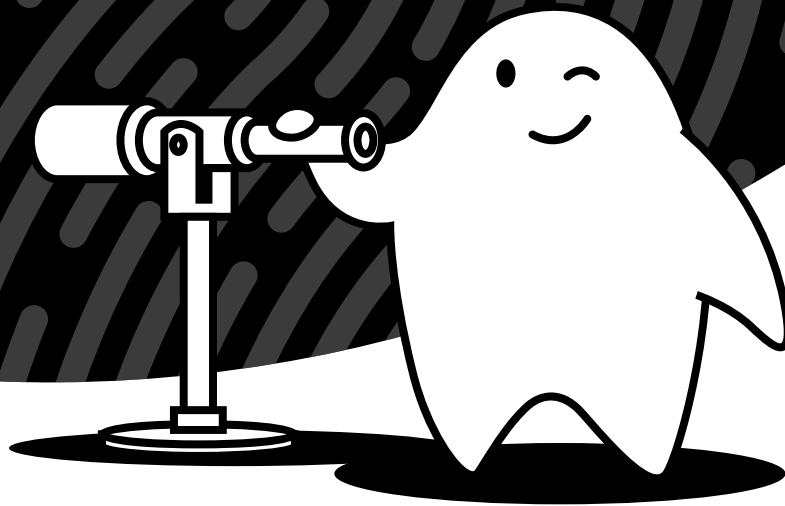


Teaching resources for understanding **identity**



WHO AM **i**?

The Bible's answers to our big questions





Lesson 7

WE WILL BE LIKE JESUS

1 John 3:2 • Rev 22:1-6

faith **in** **kids**

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Who Am I?

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We recommend the International Children's Bible for use with children during the lesson. Our leader's notes and Take Home Sheets use the New International Version.

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Living Out (www.livingout.org) commissioned Faith in Kids (www.faithinkids.org) to produce these resources to help children build a permanent identity based on God's word. Visit www.faithinkids.org to download these resources and look out for accompanying podcasts for both children and parents.

'All for the glory of God alone' (1 Corinthians 10:31)

WE WILL BE LIKE JESUS

1 JOHN 3:2, REVELATION 22:1-6



Thank you for using a Faith in Kids resource. We want to hear your feedback so we can keep improving our resources. Please [click the link](#) to fill out a short form or email us at info@faithinkids.org



Truth that changes me:

A day is coming when Christians will be like Jesus. We will be with him forever in a perfect world.



Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who remain hopeful through present brokenness and hurt, certain that they will be like Jesus and with Jesus forever.



WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Our children will face hardship and pain. How will they handle it? If they believe that this life is all there is, they'll either want to fix everything now or else lose hope. We can offer them the Bible's better story: heaven is better, longer and free from pain. Eventually, wrongs will be righted and Christians will be made perfect, with Jesus.



THE WORLD OUR CHILDREN LIVE IN

Our culture encourages us to live for today, getting what we want when we want it. Our children are told they deserve to be happy all the time, making pain and difficulties even harder to bear. 'You only live once' creates an unrealistic pressure to be constantly living their 'best life'. What sounds like freedom builds uncertainty, anxiety and disappointment because the reality can't live up to the promise. They fear they're missing out.

What if we were made for more than just our own pleasure? What if we were made for a better world than this one? What if the disappointments and difficulties of this life will be more than made up for by an eternity of being with Jesus and being like him? How would that shape us?



LOOK AT THE PASSAGE

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1 JOHN 3:2

We will be like him

This verse tells us our current identity - children of God - and our future identity - we will be like Christ! One day, faith will give way to sight. We will know and see Jesus completely. In that moment we shall be like him. We will love like he loves. Sin and death will be conquered. Our struggles will be over. Our doubts will vanish. John lifts our eyes beyond the here and now and fixes them on our certain final identity.



NOTES

Pray and read the Bible passage. Read *Where are we going, The world our children live in* and *Look at the passage* to give you a better understanding of how to apply the truth.



Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

REVELATION 22:1-2

We will be with him

John's description of heaven is rich with symbolism, yet still a real and physical place. He talks about a river, a city, streets, trees - real things, but they're better than anything you've ever seen before. This river is clear as crystal, filled with the water of life; there are no crisp packets or shopping trolleys. The tree produces fruit every month, not just once a year. The leaves bring international healing instead of just dying and falling off. At the centre of the great city is the throne of God. Imagine the joy of living in that real city, swimming in that river, tasting that fruit and seeing that throne.

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

REVELATION 22:4-5

We will see him

John describes an intimate and personal relationship. We will see Jesus' face! You will have face to face, real, deep knowledge of Jesus. There will be no secrets to hide, no uncertainty to fear, no sin to fight. You will be able to look him in the eye without fear or shame. There will be only joy. It feels too good to be true, too arrogant to expect, but this is the future we are promised. When we see the glorified Son of God we will share in his glory and reign with him forever.



WIN MY HEART

Think of the moment when you were last hurt, broken, crying, heartbroken or worn down. Let the truth of God's word be a healing balm to that wound. This life is not all there is. You are not who you will be. One day, you will be a glorious you in a real physical heaven. Every pain, heartache and frustration now is evidence that you are made for somewhere better.

Imagine your best day with your closest friend doing your favourite activity. That joy, fun and pleasure are a tiny, super-diluted taste of what it will be like in heaven with Jesus. Listen to him tell you about the future he has secured for you. You will be with Jesus and like him forever! That is the certain hope that will keep you going until you see him face to face.

- How will you be different in heaven to how you are now?
- Take time to imagine the reality of heaven as a physical place. What do you look forward to doing there?



5 MINUTES TO FOCUS ON YOUR GROUP

Where in their lives do the children in your group get a taste of heaven, as a real and physical place?

Where in their lives do they feel the ache for somewhere better? What issues are they going through that will vanish in heaven?



This truth is for your heart too.

What do the children in your group need?

Pray for them:

- to grasp the truth
- to live it out
- to rely on the Spirit





ALL TOGETHER TIME



Flexible resource: This has been written as an all-age slot to introduce the whole church family to what the children are learning today, but it could be adapted for the children's classes.



PROPS

Clip from Shrek 2 of Donkey asking, 'Are we there yet?' (search YouTube for 'Shrek 2 are we there yet'), roll of wallpaper/long carpet runner, 'Jesus' sign for the Jesus character to wear, a Bible or PowerPoint slide of 1 John 3:2.



HELPERS NEEDED

a few volunteers to stand on the path and one to act as Jesus.



What to Say



What to Do

Show the Shrek clip.

Have you ever asked, 'Are we there yet?'

On a walk when it starts to rain, you might say it like this:
'Are we there yet?'

Drop arms and head, sound weary.

On a big adventure to get somewhere exciting, you might say it like this:

'ARE WE THERE YET?'

Hop from foot to foot, sound excited.

'Are we there yet?' is something we've all said.

What keeps us going when we are finding it hard is:

- The encouragement of others.
- Thinking about how far we've come.
- But the biggest help of all is remembering where you are going.

Point to people around you.
Point behind you.
Point in front of you.

Following Jesus is like being on a journey.

We saw last week that the Holy Spirit put us on the path, with others, and promised to help us all become more like Jesus.

- We have the encouragement of others.
- We can look back and see how God has already changed us.

Unroll the wallpaper/carpet as a path. Help a volunteer onto the path.

Point to others. More volunteers stand on the path.

Point behind you.

Listen to what Jesus' best friend John tells us:

Read 1 John 3:2 (ICB):

Dear friends, now we are children of God. We have not yet been shown what we will be in the future. But we know that when Christ comes again, we will be **like him**. We will **see him** as he really is.

Volunteers sit down. 'Jesus' stays at the end of the path.

Emphasise as indicated.

continued →



What to Say

What to Do

We have just heard what's ahead, at the end of this path!

- Being **like** Jesus.
- Being **with** Jesus.

Let's remember those 2 together:

Hold up your right hand. Each finger is a beat of the words...

'Be-ing **like** Je-sus.'

Let's do it together...'Be-ing **like** Je-sus.'

Now hold up your other hand and do the same with 'Be-ing **with** Je-sus.'

Let's do it together...'Be-ing **with** Je-sus.'

Now let's do both of them together...

'Be-ing **like** Je-sus.'

'Be-ing **with** Je-sus.'

Demonstrate, moving each finger in turn.

Demonstrate with left hand.

Jesus is waiting for us in the most wonderful place!

Talk to the person next to you about something you really love doing.

What would you do on your **best** day?

Pause for people to chat.

Now think about doing *that* with Jesus, and being like Jesus. Our best things will be even better!

Some days, life feels brilliant. That's just a tiny, tiny taste of heaven. It's an 'ARE WE THERE YET?' moment.

We get to say to one another, 'This is what heaven will be like, only bigger, better, longer and with Jesus!'

Hop from foot to foot, sound excited.

Some days, it feels hard to keep going. We're fed up, we're hurting, maybe we've let others down. We feel like we'll never make it.

It's an 'Are we there yet?' moment.

Head and arms down, sound weary.

Whatever we feel like, the Holy Spirit is changing us to become more like Jesus.

He does this...

1 step at a time.

1 change at a time.

It can feel like a slow journey, but the change is happening.

When things are hard, he helps me to be more patient. The people who I don't like, he helps me to see how he sees them. The pain I feel, he helps me to reach out to God for comfort. And perhaps he puts Christians into each of the situations to encourage me.

Take a step along the path.

Take another step.

continued →



What to Say

What to Do

The great news from this verse is that when we get to Jesus, we will suddenly be **TOTALLY** and **COMPLETELY** like him. **WOW!**

Walk along the path to 'Jesus' and hug him.

No more struggle, no more tears, nothing will ever go wrong again. Everything will be sorted out in a perfect place.

In this series, we have been answering the question, 'Who am I?'

This session tells us about who we *will* be.

'Are we there yet?' Not yet, but we're getting closer.

Don't give up. Remember that we can encourage each other.

Be encouraged by how far you've come.

Get excited about where you are going.

One day we'll get to enjoy 'be-ing like Je-sus' and 'be-ing with Je-sus' forever!

Let's do it together:

'Be-ing **like** Je-sus.'

'Be-ing **with** Je-sus.'

Point to people around you.

Point behind you.

Point in front of you.

Move a finger to each beat.

Encourage everyone to join in with the actions.

Pray.





UNDER 7's LESSON PLAN



GET GOING

Be Like Me

Get the children to line up behind you and walk around the room. Do different actions that the children must copy e.g. hands on head, clap hands, knees up high, stretch arms up, arms crossed etc.

➔ **Link:** You all had to be like me. When I clapped my hands, you clapped your hands. The Bible tells us that one day we will be like Jesus. When we are in heaven with him, we will be like him. Wow!



TEACHING TIME

Before the lesson, set out the items to create a Revelation 22 scene.

The son who left home

Ask the children where they like to play.

Point out parts of the scene as you read Revelation 22:1-2: *'Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life. The river was shining like crystal. It flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the street of the city. The tree of life was on each side of the river. It produces fruit 12 times a year, once each month. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of all people.'*

Let the children interact with the parts of the scene as you ask questions and highlight what's amazing about it.

- A beautifully clear river. If I took you to this river, what would you do next? *Pretend to do their suggestions.*
- Big strong trees always full of fruit. What would you do with your friends if I took you to these trees? *Pretend to touch the leaves, smell/taste the fruit, sit under the branches, climb up the trunk etc.*
- A throne in the middle, because Jesus is there. Have you ever thought about what you will say to Jesus when you meet him? *Sit round the throne and imagine the conversation.*

When we get to heaven, we will be with Jesus in the most beautiful place we can imagine.

continued →



NOTES

Flexible resource: look at both lesson plans, pick what works for your group.

Use this activity to introduce today's theme.

You will need: space to move around the room and ideas of actions your group can copy.

Use a suitable Bible translation - we use the International Children's Bible (found online at www.biblegateway.com).

You will need: items to set up a Revelation 22 scene, e.g. a chair as a throne, a fabric river, fruit, a pot plant etc. Summary Pictures for lessons 1-3 (see Appendix).



Being Like Jesus

Read 1 John 3:2: *Dear friends, now we are children of God. We have not yet been shown what we will be in the future. But we know that when Christ comes again, we will be like him. We will see him as he really is.*

Being like Jesus means being the people God made us to be. Jesus knew the answer to the question, 'Who am I?' In heaven we will too.

- **Lesson 1 summary picture:** Jesus knew he belonged to God.
Talk partners: Where do you feel like you belong? Who with? When?
- **Lesson 2 summary picture:** Jesus loved others. He had great friends. He didn't just stick with people like him. He loved people when no one else did.
Talk partners: What do you do when you're with your best friends?
- **Lesson 3 summary picture:** Jesus hurt. He knew what it was like to be laughed at, picked on and in pain. He understands us when life is hard.
Talk partners: Who in the world understands you best?

Jesus is the most wonderful human being ever. God promises us that one day we will be like Jesus. Just as loving, kind and trusting of God as he is.

- Ask the children to pick a summary picture that they would like to be. Let them hold a picture and say 'I will belong to God - just like Jesus', 'I will love others - just like Jesus', or 'I will be understood perfectly - just like Jesus!' That's what we'll say in heaven.

One day, we will be in heaven **with** Jesus forever and we will be **like** him. Wow!




BRAIN BREAK

Like Jesus. With Jesus.

Play a game of 'Captain's Coming'. Teach the children the action to do when you call out a command. Then randomly call out the commands. For maximum fun, increase the speed of the game so the children are constantly on the move.

Commands and actions (or make up your own):

- With Jesus - grab a partner
- No pain - hold 'sore' leg and hop on the other
- Love like Jesus - give someone a hug
- No death - lie down and pretend to be dead
- Like Jesus - put hands on your heart
- Together forever - everyone links arms together to form a big circle

 **Link:** This is what we are promised. We will really be with Jesus and like him forever!



A chance to rest the children's minds before Heart and Hands. Get moving and have fun with this game.

You will need: a large space to move around.

continued →





HEART & HANDS

Craft time - Make a postcard

Prepare in advance: cut out the craft sheets for younger children.

Give each child a craft sheet. Fold on the dotted line and glue the 2 halves together to make a postcard. On the front of the postcard, encourage the children to draw a picture of something they look forward to doing with Jesus in heaven. Help the younger children to write their names/a short message to themselves on the back of the postcard. Older children can write themselves a message. Make it personal, ask each child about what they have drawn/written to encourage themselves to keep going and look forward to when they are like Jesus and with him forever.

Think time

Big Question: Who will you be like in heaven? *I will be like Jesus.*

A follow up question: Who will you be with forever in heaven? *I will be with Jesus.*

Prayer

Say together: Dear God, thank you that we will be like Jesus and with him forever! Amen.



Make a craft and have a chat. Give the children time to reflect on today's big truth, so it can impact their hearts.

You will need: printouts of the craft sheet (1 sheet per child), crayons/coloured pens, stickers and glue.





OVER 8's LESSON PLAN




GET GOING

Look Alike Challenge

Get the children to sit in a circle and give each one paper and a pen/pencil. Secretly tell each child who in the group you want them to draw. All the children have a different child they need to draw. Alternatively, get them to draw cartoon characters/famous people (have pictures to copy).

Once they have finished, set the pictures out and see if the children can work out who has been drawn. Are they anything like each other?

 **Link:** Some drawings were really like the person/character. With some of them it was harder to tell who it was. Today we are learning that one day we will be like Jesus. We won't look the same as him, but we will be just like him in how we act and think.



TEACHING TIME

Who am I?

Read 1 John 3:2: *Dear friends, now we are children of God. We have not yet been shown what we will be in the future. But we know that when Christ comes again, we will be like him. We will see him as he really is.*

Look at the verse:

- Who are you now?
- Who will you be one day?

Write answers under the 'I AM NOW' and 'I WILL BE' headings.

God gives us the answer to the big question, 'Who am I?' We are his children. We will be like Jesus.

Who will I be?

Jesus knew how to answer the question, 'Who Am I?' He was completely the person God intended him to be. Looking at Jesus helps us understand who we will be when we are like Jesus one day.

continued →



NOTES

Flexible resource: look at both lesson plans, pick what works for your group.

Use this activity to introduce today's theme.

You will need: paper and pens/pencils for each child.

Use a suitable Bible translation - we use the International Children's Bible (found online at www.biblegateway.com).

You will need: Bibles/ printout of the verse, coloured pens, large piece of paper (draw a line down the middle of the paper and write 'I AM NOW' on the left and 'I WILL BE' on the right) and a printout of the Summary Pictures for lessons 1-6 (see Appendix).





Choose **a couple** of the topics you've covered in this series (use the Summary Pictures). Talk about how one day we will experience that aspect of identity completely. Ask the questions if you think it will help. Consider splitting your group up to cover different topics and share some headlines afterwards.

1. I am made by God - Jesus knew he belonged to God and didn't try to be anyone else. One day we will be content with who we are. How will that be different to life at the moment?
2. I am made to love - Jesus loved others. He didn't stick with people just like him, he loved people when no one else did. One day we will be a family filled with different people from every nation, all praising Jesus. Who are the groups or people that don't mix at the moment?
3. I am hurting - Jesus lived in a broken world. He trusted God when things hurt. One day every tear will be wiped away and there will be no more pain. What pain or hurt do you look forward to losing?
4. I am given a body - Jesus knew his ordinary body was a gift from God. He wasn't obsessed with it or ashamed of it. One day we will be truly happy with our bodies. What part of your body do you look forward to enjoying in heaven? What will your body be able to do in heaven?
5. I am loved and forgiven - Jesus lived as a loved son. He knows when we try to earn God's love and when we feel we don't deserve it. One day we will completely enjoy being loved and forgiven. Think about something you do or have done that you long to be forgotten.
6. We are not alone - Jesus had the Holy Spirit in him. We have the same Holy Spirit at work in us now. One day we will get to heaven and be home with God forever. Do you have a habit or behaviour that you just can't stop doing?


One day we will be able to answer the question 'Who am I?' completely and fully like Jesus does. Which of these 'One day...' promises is the most surprising to you? What will you say to Jesus when you meet him?



BRAIN BREAK

In Heaven I Will...

Sit in a circle and ask the children to think of an activity they look forward to doing in heaven. Help each child think of a statement and an action to match. Get the first child to say their statement and do their action. The next child must repeat the first statement and action and then say and do theirs. Keep going until everyone has added their statements. See if you can all say them together one last time finishing with saying 'In heaven I will be like Jesus and with Jesus forever!'

 **Link:** Heaven is a real place that we will really enjoy. It will have all the good things of earth but they will all be better. We will be better too, we will be like Jesus - Wow! And we will be with him forever.

continued →





HEART & HANDS

Did you spot it?

- Who will you be like one day?
- One day you will be like Jesus. In what ways will you be different then to what you are today?
- What do we know about what heaven will be like?

Work it out

- How could remembering you **will** be with Jesus add something extra to a **good** day?
- How could remembering you will be **like** Jesus help when you have **bad** days/mess up/get in trouble?

Live it out

Look at case study picture A. Imagine this is you/someone you know. The other kids are laughing at him for being a Christian.

- How do you think the boy feels?
- How would you feel?
- How will remembering that he will be like Jesus and with Jesus in heaven help him in this moment?
- What could you say to encourage him to keep going?

Or look at case study picture B. Imagine this boy is someone you know, someone he loves has died.

- What have we learnt that could comfort this boy?
- What could you say to him?

What do you think is more exciting - being like Jesus, or being with Jesus? Why?

Extra Stretch

Do you know someone with an illness, a disability or a struggle that makes them sad? How would you feel if their problem was never fixed? What if it was *your* problem? Does the hope of heaven change the situation?

A 'bucket list' is a list of things that a person hopes to do during their lifetime. Do you think we need a list like that? Why or why not? What would a Christian say if they didn't do all the things on the list?

What are you most looking forward to about heaven?

In pairs, describe heaven to one another.

Do you believe heaven is forever? Will it make any difference to you tomorrow?



A chance to reflect and chat about how the truth, through the Spirit's work, changes our thoughts (head), feelings (heart) and actions (hands).

*Use the **Chat Time** sheet – you could enlarge it and work on it together. Hand out sticky notes so children can still respond personally.*

These questions are designed to stretch the resource up to teenage years. Depending on the level of discussion in your group, you may want to consider using them.

continued →



Prayer

Ask the children what they most want to remember from today's lesson. Ask them when they most need to remember the good news that they will be like Jesus. Ask them when they most need to remember that heaven is real.

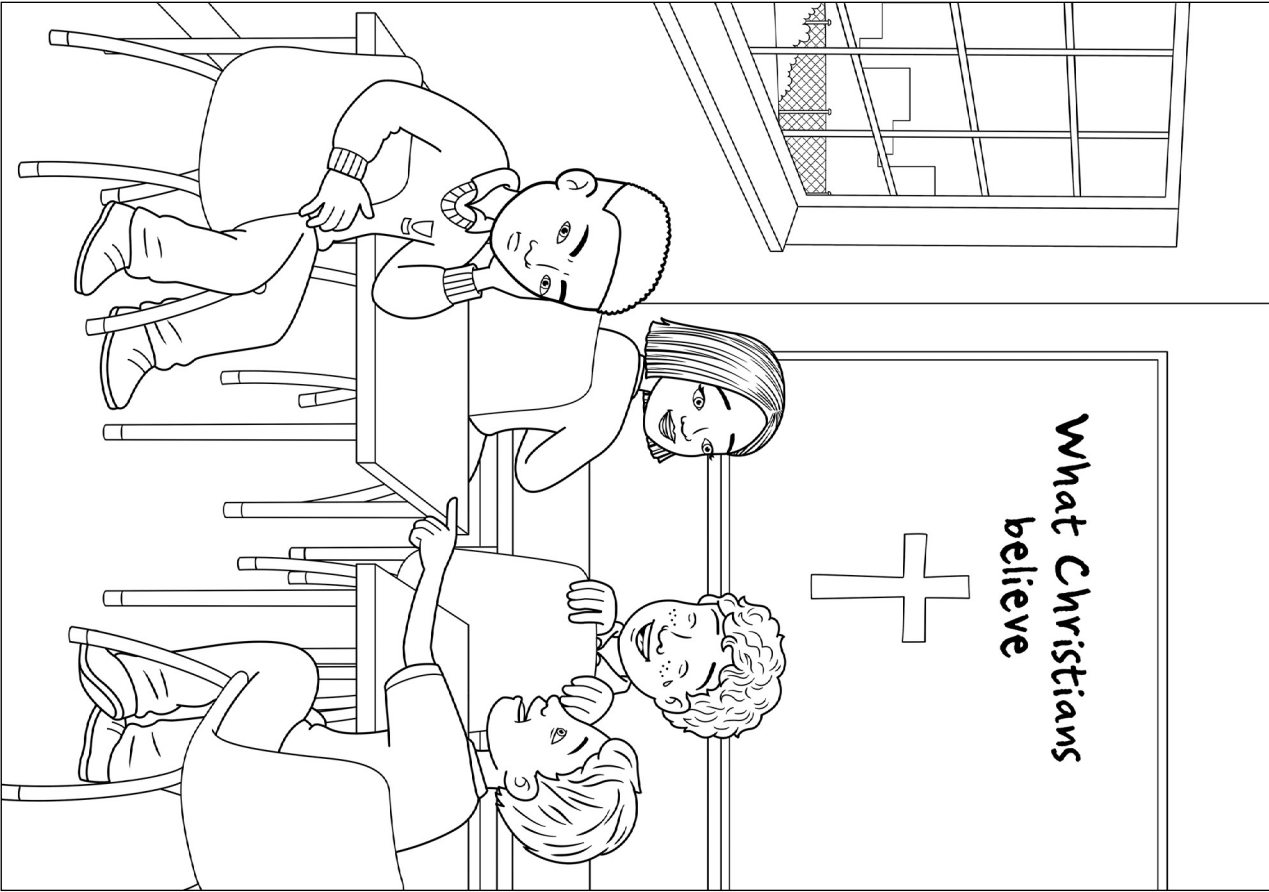
Pray for each of them by name, that in that moment when they are finding it hard, or feeling sad, they might remember who they will be and where they will be.



Whenever we explain what it means to come home to God, we should expect the Spirit to move in some hearts in big ways. Be prepared for some children to take significant steps of faith. Talk to their parents as appropriate.



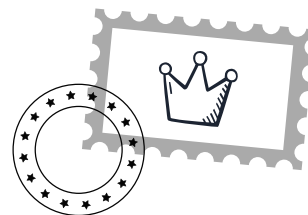
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B

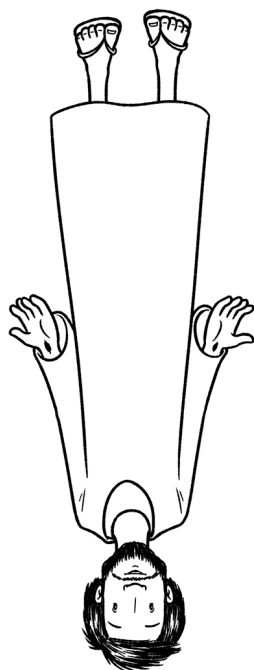


1 John 3:2, Revelation 22:1-6



I will be
like Jesus!

Fold



...with Jesus!

I will be in heaven!





HEART & HANDS CHAT TIME

WHO AM I?

We will be like Jesus

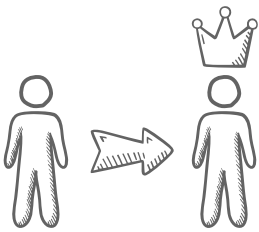
1 JOHN 3:2, REVELATION 22:1-6

Look at these verses together and find the answers



DID YOU SPOT IT?

Who will you be like one day?



In what ways will you be different then to what you are today?

I am now

I will be

What do we know about what heaven will be like?



WORK IT OUT

Give everyone a chance to answer...

How could remembering you'll be with Jesus add something extra to a good day?

How could remembering you'll be like Jesus help when you have bad days, mess up or get in trouble?

with Jesus



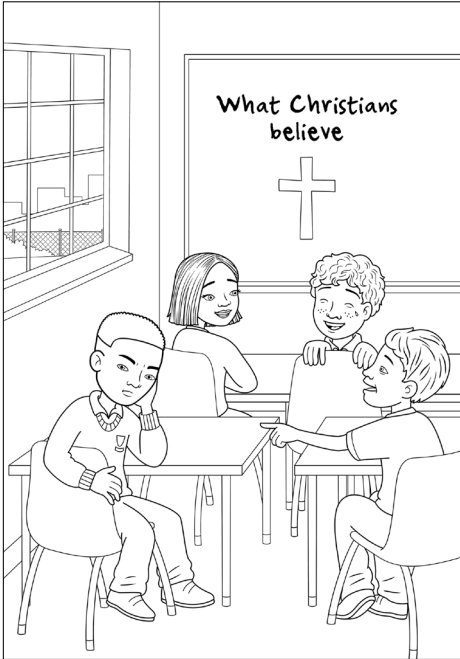
like Jesus



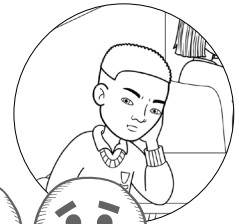
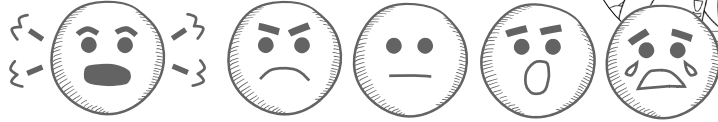


LIVE IT OUT

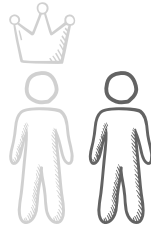
Give everyone a chance to speak...



How do you think this boy feels?

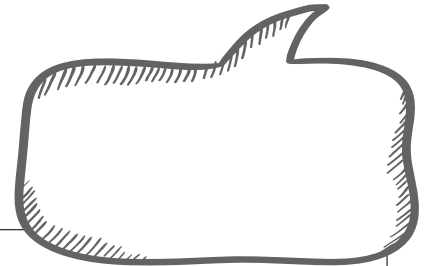


How would you feel?



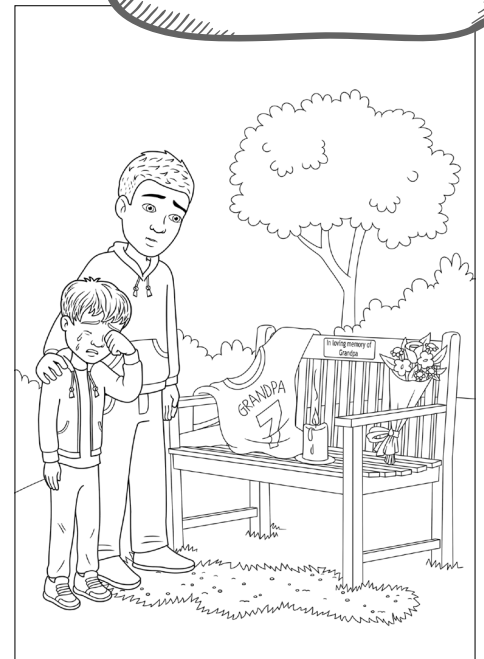
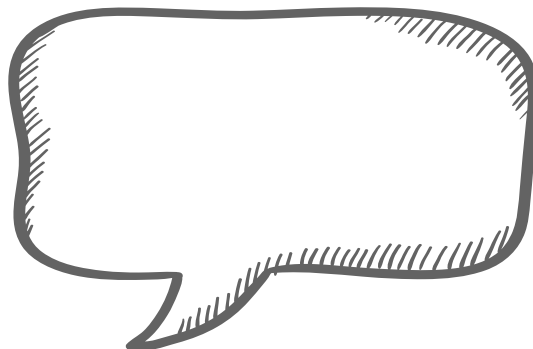
How will remembering that he will be like Jesus and with Jesus in heaven help him in this moment?

What could you say to encourage him to keep going?



What have we learnt that could comfort this boy?

What could you say to him?



What do you think is more exciting... being LIKE JESUS or being WITH JESUS?

Why?





I am made
by God



I am made to
love others



I am
hurting



I am given
a body



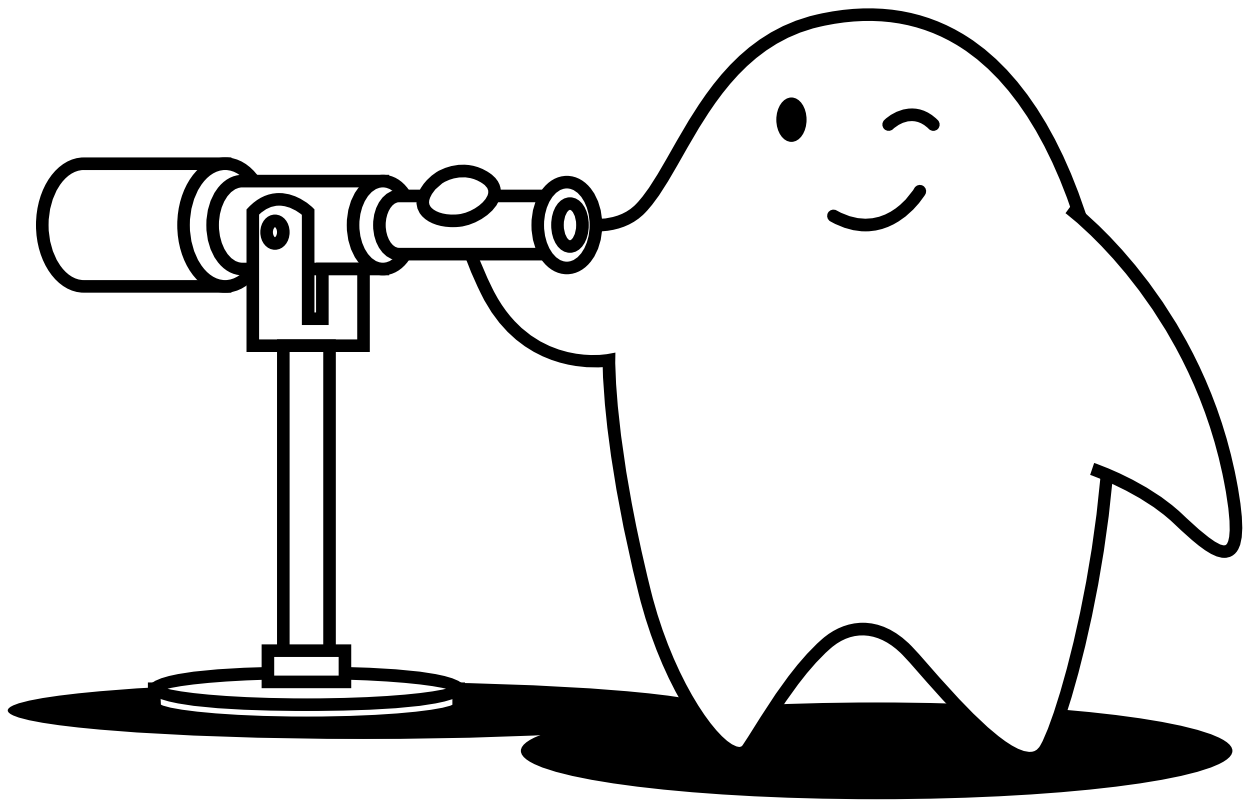
I am loved
and forgiven

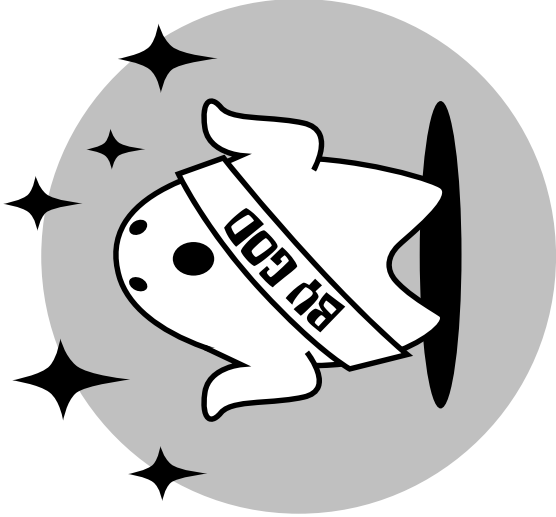


We are
not alone

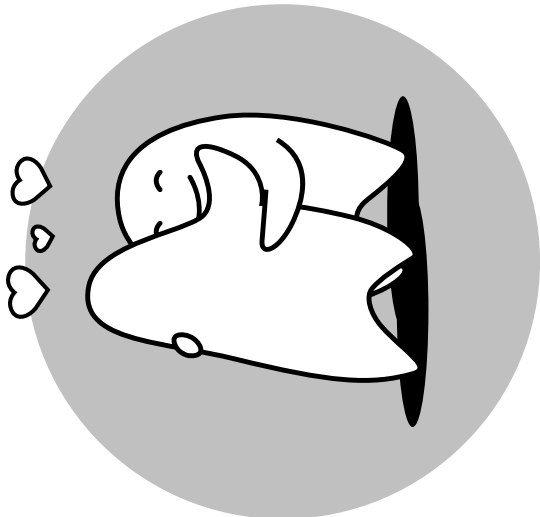


We will be
like Jesus

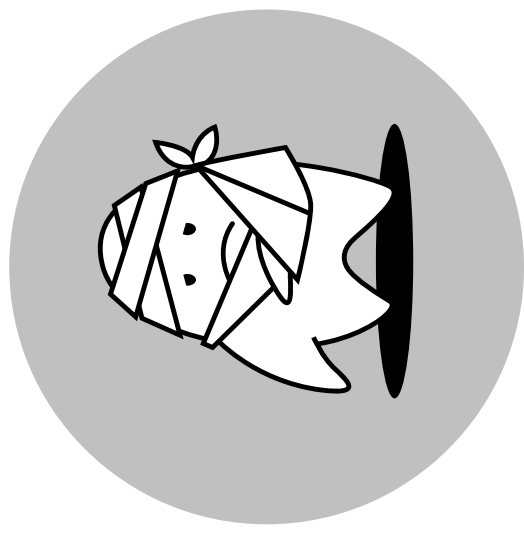




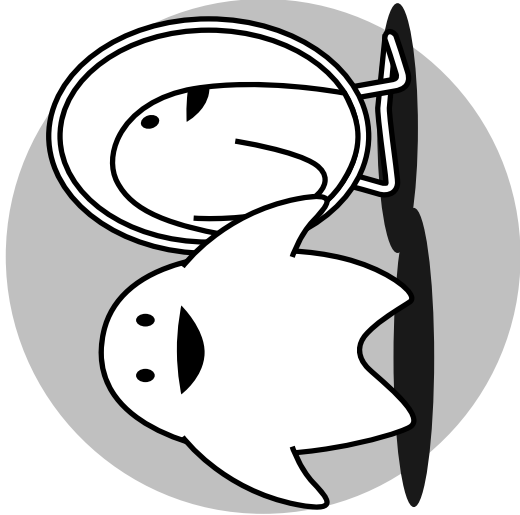
**I am made
by God**



**I am made to
love others**



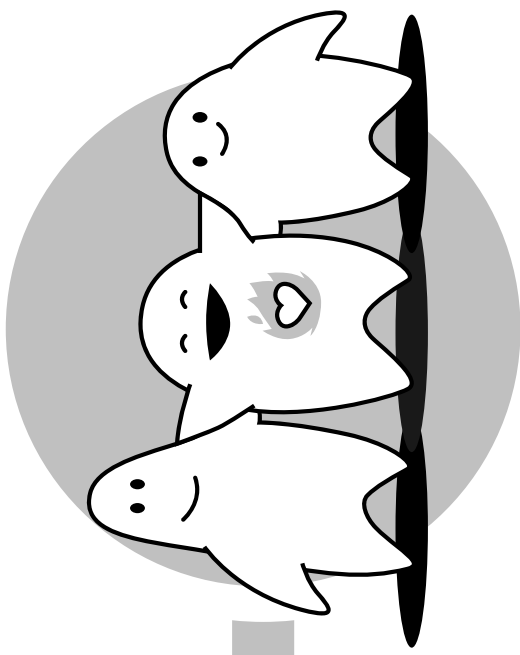
**I am
hurting**



**I am given
a body**



**I am loved
and forgiven**



**We are
not alone**



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