

The Gospel Beads Devotion Series

The **Story**: The Gospel Beads Introduction (Luke 12:35-40)

Jesus tells his disciples that he is coming back. He says they must 'Be Ready' for him to return. He gives two examples of readiness, a servant waiting for his master and a homeowner knowing that a thief is going to break in. Like them, we are to be ready for Jesus to return.

The **Activity to Do**:

Option 1: Around the dinner table or over afternoon tea give each family member one of the pictures on the next page. Each person needs to come up with 3 ways that the person in their picture gets ready for what they're doing. When each family member has shared discuss the 'Be Ready' questions below.

Option 2: Get out your art and craft things and create a Memory Verse Mural. Put it up somewhere you'll see it often. When you've finished discuss the 'Saved' questions below.

Option 3: Get each family member to draw a picture of someone who doesn't know Jesus. Discuss the 'My Friends' questions below

The **Things to Talk About**:

Be Ready

As Christians, what do we need to do to be ready for Jesus to come back?

What about our friends who don't know Jesus? What do they need to do to be ready for Jesus to come back?

How can we make sure that we always stay ready for Jesus return?
What things will help us to be ready?

Saved

What does Romans tell us we need to do to be saved?

Do you confessed with your mouth and believe in your heart the good news about Jesus?

My Friends

What can we do this term to introduce our friends to Jesus?

Be practical (e.g. sleepover and bring to church, invite to scripture, parents talk to parents about Kidsplus, ask to read the Bible with a work colleague, etc)

Why do our friends need to hear the gospel?

The **Memory Verse**

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

The **Things to Pray About**:

Thank God for sending Jesus to die in our place. Thank Go that Jesus will return and we can live with him forever.

Pray that we would always be ready for Jesus return. Pray that our friends would turn to Jesus and trust in him.

What are 3 ways that the person in their picture gets ready for what they're doing?



Sitting a test



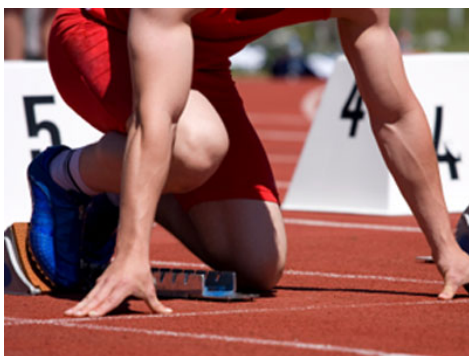
Going to a birthday party



Going fishing



Playing soccer



Running a race



Going on holiday

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The **Story**: The Gospel Beads GREEN (Genesis 1:1-2:4)

Green stands for Creation. God made the world and everything in it. God loves us and he's in charge of everything.

The **Activity to Do**:

Option 1: Around the dinner table or over afternoon tea let each family member share 1 thing that they are in charge of (e.g. their room, a musical instrument, the car, etc) and what is their favourite thing about being in charge. When each family member has shared discuss the 'God's in Charge' questions below.

Option 2: Together as a family read the creation story from a Kids Bible. When you've finished, discuss the 'God made the world' questions below.

Option 3: Make some green slime using the recipe below. As you enjoy playing with the slime discuss the 'My Friends' questions below.

The **Things to Talk About**:

God's in Charge

Why is God in charge of the whole world?

What are some ways that we can show that God is in charge of our lives?

Does everyone let God be in charge of their lives?

Why is God's way the best way?

God Made The World

What is your favourite part of God's creation?

How did God make the world?

What did he say about the world as he made it?

How do you feel knowing that God made you and loves you?

My Friends

Why do our friends need to hear about the GREEN bead?

What is one thing you could tell your friend about the green bead this week? When will you tell them?

The **Memory Verse**

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

The **Things to Pray About**:

Thank God that he made us, and he loves us. Thank God for your favourite part of his creation.

Pray that we would listen to and obey God and have him in charge of our lives. Pray for our friends who don't know Jesus.

Slime

What you'll need

- Lux flakes, or other pure soap flakes
- Hot water
- Green food colouring
- A tub to put it in
- Something to mix with
- Garbage bags or ponchos or paint shirts to stop kids getting dirty
- Funnels, cups, spoons for kids to use as they play with the slime

What to do...

Tip your soap flakes into the tub and add hot or boiling water – a rough idea of ratio is 1 cup of soap flakes to 3 cups of water, but you might need to play around and add more of either ingredient to get it the consistency that you want. Add the food dye to make it the colour you want.

Mix up your soap flakes a water. Electric beaters would be fun if you have some, or just a regular whisk or spoon will do.

If you want to play with your slime right away whip it up till it is nice and bubbly. It will be light and fluffy, but if you want it to be really slimy, mix it up and let it sit overnight....

The next day it should be the consistency of snot. Delightful!

I suggest you put a towel or cloth under your tubs to catch the drips. A plastic tablecloth would become really slippery with the soapy slime, and the towels can just be chucked in the wash, no extra detergent needed. Just let the kids enjoy some free play with the slime.



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The **Story**: The Gospel Beads BLACK (Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 3:23, 6:23a)

Black stands for Sin. We don't want God to be in charge. We want to be in charge of our own lives. The Bible calls this SIN and the punishment for sin is DEATH.

The Activity to Do:

Option 1: Around the dinner table or over afternoon tea pull out the local newspaper. As a family find some different stories that show the sin in our world. When you've read a few discuss the 'Our Sin' questions below.

Option 2: Together as a family read the Genesis 3 story from a Kids Bible. When you've finished, discuss the 'Adam and Eve sinned' questions below.

Option 3: Make a big fruit salad together. You could even make faces using different pieces of fruit (e.g. banana mouth, grapes for eyes, etc). As you eat discuss the 'My Friends' questions below.

The Things to Talk About:

Adam and Eve sinned

Who is in charge of the whole world? Why?

What did Adam and Eve do?
Why was it so bad?

How do you think God would have felt after Adam and Eve's sin?

What was the punishment for their sin?

Our Sin

What is sin?

Get each family member to share one way that they have sinned today.

Why is sin so bad? What is the punishment for sin?

What should we do about our sin? What has God done about our sin?

My Friends

Why do our friends need to hear about the BLACK bead?

What is one thing you could tell your friend about the BLACK bead this week? When will you tell them?

The Memory Verse

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

The Things to Pray About:

Thank God that he made us, and he loves us. Thank God that even though we sin he has made a way for us to be forgiven

Say sorry for your sins. List them as you say sorry. Pray that God would help you to have him in charge of your life every day.

The Gospel Beads Devotion Series

The **Story**: The Gospel Beads RED (Matthew 27:1-26; 1 Peter 3:18)

RED stands for Jesus' Blood. God loves us so much that he punished Jesus instead of us. Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sins.

The **Activity to Do**:

Option 1: Around the dinner table or over afternoon tea get each family member to answer, 'Would you rather swap your most treasured possession for your own private plane or swap your teeth for \$1 million?' When you've read a few discuss the 'Barabbas' questions below.

Option 2: Make some red jelly together. Before it's set write out and cut up the words of the memory verse and place them in the jelly. As you eat pull the verse out and put it together. Then discuss the 'My Friends' questions below.

Option 3: Jesus' Blood

Draw a circle on the ground in chalk. Divide the circle into equal segments and write different colours in each. Make sure there is one RED segment. Blindfold one person and stand them in the middle of the circle spin them around slowly. Get them to take three steps in any direction, then remove the blindfold. If they are standing in the red segment win. Continue until everyone has had a turn. Then discuss the 'Jesus' Blood' questions below.

The **Things to Talk About**:

Barabbas

What do we know about Barabbas from Matthew 27?

What do we know about Jesus from Matthew 27? How many sins had Jesus done?

How does it make you feel that sinless Jesus swapped places with Barabbas? Jesus was killed and Barabbas went free.

Jesus' Blood

Think back to last week. What is the punishment for sin?

How does Jesus trade places with us on the cross?

Why would God send Jesus to die in our place? (see 1 Peter 3:18)

What would you like to say to Jesus?

My Friends

Why do our friends need to hear about the RED bead?

What is one thing you could tell your friend about the RED bead this week? When will you tell them?

The **Memory Verse**

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

The **Things to Pray About**:

Thank God that he made us, and he loves us. Thank God that he sent Jesus to trade places and die in our place

Say sorry for your sins. List them as you say sorry. Pray that God would help you to have him in charge of your life every day.

The Gospel Beads Devotion Series

The **Story**: The Gospel Beads WHITE (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Colossians 2:4)

WHITE stands for washed clean. Because of Jesus' death my sin is washed away. People who say sorry to God can be forgiven for their sin and part of God's family again.

The Activity to Do:

Option 1: As a family stack the dishwasher or wash clean all the dishes together (or you could even wash clean the car if you're feeling adventurous). While you're doing it discuss the 'Washed Clean' questions below.

Option 2: Using the recipe on the next page, make some sherbet together. Count the number of white ingredients that you have to use. Then discuss the 'No more sin' questions below.

Option 3: Give each family member a tablespoon of rice. Put a timer on for 1 minute. Then see which family member can line up their rice in the longest line in the time allowed. You could even use chopsticks to line them up if you wanted it to be a bit of a challenge. When you've finished discuss the 'My Friends' questions below.

The Things to Talk About:

No More Sin

If Jesus has washed away our sin, then why do we continue to sin each day?

What day will we stop sinning forever? Who makes that possible?

How can we help each other to live more like Jesus now?

Washed Clean

What is the dirtiest thing you can imagine? How would you clean it?

What is our big problem? How does God wash us clean?

Why is Jesus' death able to wash us free from sin? How do we get this forgiveness?

What would you like to say to Jesus today?

My Friends

Why do our friends need to hear about the WHITE bead?

What is one thing you could tell your friend about the WHITE bead this week? When will you tell them?

The Memory Verse

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

The Things to Pray About:

Thank God that through Jesus death our sin can be washed away, and we can be part of God's family again.

Pray that Jesus would help us to trust in him always. Pray that Jesus would make us more like him.

Sherbet Recipe

Ingredients:

1 tsp citric acid
2 tbsp icing sugar
3 tbsp jelly crystals (any flavour you like)
1 tsp baking soda

Method:

Pour all the ingredients into a cup.
Mix them well.
Enjoy.

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The **Story:** The Gospel Beads GOLD/YELLOW (Revelation 19:11-16, Matthew 25:31-46)

GOLD/YELLOW stands for King Jesus. God raised Jesus back from the dead. He is king, in charge of everything. One day he will come back to rule and judge. Those who have been forgiven will live with him forever. Those who have not been forgiven will be punished forever.

The Activity to Do:

Option 1: After dinner or over afternoon tea get each family member to draw a picture of what they think heaven will look like. When you've shared your pictures with each other discuss the 'New Creation' questions below.

Option 2: Play a game or two of sardines as a family. When you've finished, discuss the 'Who will be there?' questions below.

Option 3: Using the recipe on the back make some crown cookies and decorate them. While you're waiting for them to cook, or while you're decorating together discuss the 'My Friends' questions below.

The Things to Talk About:

New Creation

How does Jesus describe the new creation in Revelation 21?

What are you most looking forward to about heaven?

If Jesus came back today are you sure that you would be with him forever?

Who will be there?

What will Jesus do when he returns?

Who will be in the New Creation? Why will they get to be there?

Who will not be in the New Creation? What happens to them?

What should we do to make sure that our friends and family get to be part of Jesus family forever?

My Friends

Why do our friends need to hear about the Yellow bead?

What is one thing you could tell them about the Yellow bead this week? When will you tell them?

The Memory Verse

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

The Things to Pray About:

Thank God that Jesus is risen from the dead. Thank God that if we trust in him we will get to be with him forever through Jesus.

Pray that we would trust Jesus always. Pray that we would be bold and tell our friends and family about Jesus.

Crown Cookies Recipe

Ingredients:

- 2 cups plain flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup caster sugar
- 250g soft butter, cubed
- 1 large egg yolk
- 2 tsp vanilla essence
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
- yellow icing and lollies to decorate

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees.
2. Beat butter and sugar together in a bowl
3. Add vanilla essence and egg yolk and beat until smooth
4. Add the flour and salt and mix it all together
5. Shape the mixture into a ball using your hands. Wrap it in clingwrap and put it in the fridge for 30 minutes.
6. Sprinkle clean surface with flour and roll the mixture until it's 1/2cm thick. Then use a knife or cookie cutter to cut out crown shapes
7. Put the cookies into the oven for 12 minutes. Then put them on a cooling rack
8. Decorate your crown cookies
9. Eat!

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The **Story**: The Gospel Beads QUESTION MARK (Luke 19:1-10, Luke 18:18-23)

QUESTION MARK stands for what do you think? I believe this is true. So, Jesus has changed my life. Now he's in charge of my life. What do you think about the gospel? The question mark bead is all about getting our friends to respond to the gospel. We aren't just telling them a nice story; this impacts their lives. We want them to believe and trust in Jesus as Lord too!

The Activity to Do:

Option 1: After dinner or over afternoon tea get each family member to share a time in the past few weeks where they have spoken to someone about Jesus or shared that they are a Christian. When you've shared discuss the 'Gospel Beads' questions below.

Option 2: Using pencils or playdough or duplo recreate the story of the rich young man and Zacchaeus. When you've finished discuss the 'Jesus changes lives' questions below.

Option 3: Make a 'Christmas Family Wish List'. On the list write the names of your friends and family you want to share the gospel with this Christmas. Next to their names write one way you might be able to share Jesus with them this Christmas. Then discuss the 'My Friends' questions below.

The Things to Talk About:

Gospel Beads

Why is it important to share the gospel with our friends?

What makes it hard?

How can we help each other to keep doing it?

Pull out your pictures of your friends who don't know Jesus from week 1. Pray for them.

Jesus changes lives

How did Jesus change Zac's life?

Why do you think he changed?

Why did the rich man go away sad?

Which one was saved from their sin?

When we meet Jesus he changes our lives. How has Jesus changed your life?

My Friends

Why do our friends need to hear about the Question mark bead?

What is one thing you could tell them about the bead this week? When will you tell them?

The Memory Verse

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

The Things to Pray About:

Thank God that he changes our hearts to love Jesus. Thank God that if we trust in him, we will get to be with him forever Jesus.

Pray that we would trust Jesus always. Pray that we would be bold and tell our friends and family about Jesus.

