

## HOOK

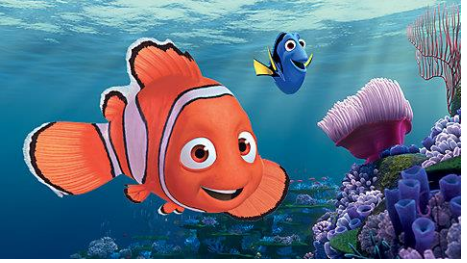
### GAME: UNDERWATER ACTIONS

Introduce 4 actions based on underwater creatures or plants:

- SEAWEED                      Wave hands in the air like seaweed
- JELLYFISH                    Wave hands down below like tentacles
- STARFISH                    Jump and open hands and legs wide like a star shape
- SHARK                        Snap hands together in front like a shark's jaw (with sound effects)

Aim of game: Teacher to call out and act out the various actions and kids to follow. Go faster and faster as the game progresses.

Variation: Tell the kids they have to do the action of what you say, but not follow the actions of what you do. E.g. you may call out SHARK, while doing the JELLYFISH action, but the kids should do the SHARK action.



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# JESUS FOUND ME

## VIDEO: FINDING NEMO (10 mins)

### INTRO ON "FINDING NEMO"

Nemo is a fish with tiny right fin, which limits his swimming ability. His father, Marlin, is very protective over him.

One day, Nemo was unhappy about how overprotective his father was. He disobeys his father and sneaks away from the reef towards a boat, resulting in him being captured by scuba divers and taken to Sydney, Australia.

This story is about how Nemo's father travels the oceans, searching for him, battling sharks and jellyfish, riding turtles and sea gulls.

What did Nemo do?

What did his father do to Nemo after all?



## LESSON: JESUS FOUND ME

### **Everybody makes mistakes and messes up in life**

Sometime in life, we will mess up and make mistakes, like Nemo

Nemo didn't want to listen to his father. He was trying to get approval and acceptance from outside (friends). He got lost and trapped in the aquarium.

In the same way, all of us have messed up. We have sinned. We chose not to obey God. We tried to do things our own way.

Just like Nemo, we got lost. We got trapped and imprisoned by sin.

### **Jesus came to seek and save us**

Even though Nemo disobeyed his father and got into this whole mess, the father, Marlin, still loved and cared for him. He went all the way out to look for his beloved son.

Remember Psalm 23? We learnt that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. And the Good Shepherd went to search for the one lost lamb. We were the lost lamb. And Jesus came to rescue us.

(optional: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z05egmc7Jr8>)

In the same way, Jesus left His heavenly glory to come to earth as a baby born in a manger. He left His place on the throne to take our place on the cross. He died as a prisoner and sinner, in between two criminals, so that we can become a child of God.

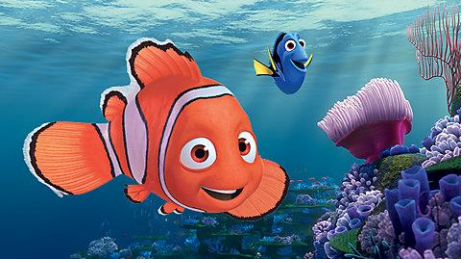
Jesus didn't wait until we were good before He came to rescue us. The Bible tells us that "... *God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*" (Romans 5:8) He came because He loved us, unconditionally, unreservedly.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Always remember that you are Daddy God's beloved child through Jesus Christ.

No matter what you have done, no matter how bad you are, He will always, always love you.

And when we make mistakes, when we have disobeyed or gone our own way, remember that we don't have to hide from Him or be afraid — our Father is always waiting for us, and we can always run back to Him.



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# JESUS FOUND ME

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### MEMORY VERSE

**Luke 19:10** *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*



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# I AM CHOSEN

## HOOK

### VIDEO: Kungfu Panda

How many of you have watched this movie? *Kung fu Panda*

What's the name of the Panda? *Po*

Po helps his goose father, Mr Ping, in his noodle restaurant. He has big dreams of becoming a kung fu master ... but it seems like a faraway dream.

One day, there was a kung fu tournament in town to choose the Dragon Warrior — the one who will be able to defeat the enemy, Tai Lung the Leopard.

Po wanted to go see who would be chosen the Dragon Warrior. He rushed there, but he was too late —the door was closed. So he tried many ways to get in, including sitting on a chair strapped with fireworks, and crashed right in the middle of the arena where Oogway, an old tortoise, proclaims him the Dragon Warrior.

Po couldn't believe it.

Neither could all the other kung fu masters, including Shi Fu.

They rejected him. Po was no kung fu master. He was a big, fat panda — clumsy and slow. He couldn't do anything right except eat! How could he be the Dragon Warrior? Shi Fu was convinced it was all a mistake.

Po was very discouraged. He wanted to give up. There was no way he could be a kung fu master and defeat the enemy.

But Oogway believed in him. Po was no coincidence, no accident. He was the Dragon Warrior. And it was up to him to believe that.

And when Po believed that he was the chosen one, the big fat panda was able to defeat Tai Lung the leopard. He was not just a kung fu master, but the Dragon Warrior.



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# I AM CHOSEN

## LESSON

Sometimes, like Po, we think we are too big, too small, too dumb, too cool, too inadequate to achieve those dreams.

We compare ourselves with our sisters and brothers, our cousins and friends, and say we are not good enough.

But I have good news for you. You may have a big dream ... but you have a BIGGER God.

### GOD SEES YOU AS SPECIAL

The world may say you are weak, small, forgotten and loser, but God sees a treasure in you — just like Oogway sees Po as the Dragon Warrior, not as a clumsy, unskilful panda.

Do you remember when God asked the prophet Samuel to anoint a new king for Israel from one of Jesse's sons? Samuel met seven of Jesse's sons. They were big, tall and handsome. "Surely this one would be God's chosen one!" he thought.

But God said no. *"Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."* (1 Samuel 16:7)

### GOD CHOSE YOU FOR BIG THINGS

Finally all seven sons passed Samuel, and each time God said, no. Finally, Samuel found out that Jesse had a youngest son who was taking care of the sheep. He was a young boy, not important enough for the father to bring to meet the prophet.

Samuel asked for him. And God said, "Yes, this is the one I chose."

David was anointed by Samuel. He went on to defeat Goliath. And he later became the next king of Israel.

When God chooses you, He will use you in great and wonderful ways so that we can bring glory to Him.

We are all God's chosen people. And we are His princes and princesses. *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."* (1 Peter 2:9)



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## **LOOK AT JESUS ... NOT AT YOURSELF OR YOU LACK**

But, but, but ... I'm still little old me! I can't do it on my own!

You can't. But Jesus can.

On the Cross, Jesus took all our weaknesses, so that we can have His strength. He took all our faults and failings, so that we can have His victory.

When we believe in Jesus, we receive all that He has for us. His Holy Spirit lives in us and gives us all His power and authority — He is our Sifu! He was the one who put in you the skills, talents, intelligent and gifts in you to help you do what you want to do.

When we trust in Jesus' strengths, we can rely on Him to raise us up and shine in and through us, His chosen ones.

*"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Phil 4:13)*

## **SUMMARY**

God sees you — even if you are a nobody.

God chose you — so He can do great things through you.

Jesus is our strength — we can do all things through Him.



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I AM CHOSEN

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Ask the children to share what their dreams are, and ask Jesus to help them accomplish these.





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# I AM A CHILD OF THE KING

## HOOK

### **VIDEO: Lion King** (10 mins)

In the Pride Lands of Africa, Mufasa, the lion king, rules over the other animals. There is much celebration over the birth of Mufasa's son, Simba, who will one day take over as king.

However, not everyone is happy. Mufasa's younger brother, Scar, is very jealous. He wanted to be king. And now, Simba will be the heir to the throne, not him.

As Simba is growing up, Scar plots to get rid of him. He conspires with the hyenas to provoke a large herd of wild beasts into stampede into the gorge where Simba is. When Mufasa finds out about the stampede, he rushes to rescue Simba, bringing him to safety. But when Mufasa tries to climb up the gorge's walls himself, Scar throws him back into the stampede, killing him.

After Simba finds his father's lifeless body in the gorge, Scar tricks him into thinking that Mufasa's death was his fault. "You did it ... it's your fault. Run away. What would you say to your mother? You can never be forgiven."

Stricken with guilt, Simba runs far, far away from home, collapsing in a desert from exhaustion. He is found by some jungle animals who take care of him and becomes his friends, and they lived a carefree life together.

Years later, Simba is now an adult. One day, Simba meets Nala, a lioness from his father's pride. She tells him that Scar has ruined Pride Lands, and begs him to return as king. However, Simba still carries the guilt over his father's death. He prefers to stay in his cosy life in the jungle instead of returning to be king.

Simba sees a vision of his father, Mufasa. His father tells him to remember who he is — the true king of the Pride Lands — and to take his rightful place.

Simba then realizes that he can no longer run from who he really is. He goes back home, faces his past, disposes of Scar and his lies, and becomes king of Pride Lands.



## LESSON

Like Simba, sometimes we forget who we are. We act and behave in a way that does not reflect our true identity. We need to remember WHO WE ARE and WHOSE WE ARE.

### YOU ARE A CHILD OF THE KING

Simba is the son of King — the heir to the throne at Pride Rock. He is the beloved child of his father, Mufasa, who loves him so much and will do anything to protect him.

Similarly, when we believe in Jesus, we become children of the King. We become His heirs. God is the God of everything, and everything He has, He wants to give to us as our inheritance. We, His children, are to reign in life and to show the world who God really is.

*“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” (Romans 8:17)*

Simba thought his father was dead and gone; he thought his father had left him. But he didn't realise that his father lived on in him. Similarly, Jesus died, rose again, and returned to heaven, but His Holy Spirit lives in us forever and ever — He is the mark and guarantee of who we really are.

### DO NOT BE DECEIVED — NO MORE CONDEMNATION IN CHRIST

Simba was deceived by Scar and tricked into running away out of guilt over his father's death.

The devil is the father of lies. He likes to trick God's children into thinking that if we have done something wrong, God will judge us and bad things will come near us. This causes many of God's children to run away and hide from God.

How do you see your Daddy God? Is he judging you when you make wrong decisions or choices? That is not true. Today you have the gift of no condemnation because of Jesus, the son of God was condemned for all your sins (Romans 8:1)

Just as Mufasa gave his life to save Simba, Jesus gave His life to save you. Jesus was judged in our place for every one of our wrong action, thoughts and words.

When we make mistakes or do wrong things, don't try to hide it or run away from it. But let's all look to the cross and say, “Daddy God, thank you for Jesus, who took all my punishment for me on the cross so that I can become a child of the King.”

Be careful who listen to — the devil, the roaring lion? Or Jesus, the Lion of Judah!



## LIVE IN OUR DESTINY AS CHILDREN OF THE KING

Let me tell you about another young prince who tried to run away from his destiny. The young man grew up in the greatest palace in a land called Egypt. His name was Moses. He was supposed to be killed as a baby boy, but God saved him ... so that one day, he can lead God's people out of Egypt.

One day, Moses tried to save a Hebrew slave from being beaten by an Egyptian. In the end, he killed the Egyptian. Guilt-stricken and afraid, Moses ran away in to the wilderness. He lived for many years taking care of sheep, with his wife and child.

Moses was a prince living as a shepherd in the desert. He may have forgotten who he was and what his calling was. But God didn't forget him. God appeared to him in a burning bush and reminded him that he is supposed to lead God's people out of Egypt.

Moses had many excuses — he was a nobody, he couldn't speak, he was too insignificant, send someone else etc. But God says He will be with him — God will help him speak and teach him what to do. (Exodus 3-4)

Despite Moses' many excuses and trying to run away from his true identity, God used him to deliver His people out of slavery in Egypt to the Promise Land.

We are children of the King. We have a destiny in Jesus. And we can live as who we truly are!

## SUMMARY

I am a child of the King.

There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus

I can live as a child of a King.



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# I AM A CHILD OF THE KING

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Get the children to profess their identity in Jesus and to pray for each other.



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# JESUS' LOVE TRANSFORMS

## HOOK

### **VIDEO: Beauty & the Beast**

An arrogant young prince and his castle's servants fall under the spell of a wicked enchantress, who turns him into the hideous Beast. He would remain like this forever until he learns to love and be loved in return ... before the last petal of the magical rose falls.

The spirited, headstrong village girl Belle enters the Beast's castle after he imprisons her father Maurice. Slowly, Belle begins to draw the cold-hearted Beast out of his isolation.

When the villagers, led by Gaston, go on a Beast hunt, the Beast ends up wounded. As the final petal fell, Belle professed her love for the Beast, transforming him into a handsome prince.



## LESSON

### JESUS' LOVE SAVES US

When the theme song speaks of a “tale as old as time,” it is correct. Beauty and the Beast is a story about a curse that must be broken. It reminds us of the grandest story of the world — where we were trapped in our sinful, cursed condition, and how Jesus’ love rescued us.

The Beast and the characters in his castle are under a spell. The Beast himself is hideous and unkind, his princely glory long gone. The others are ridiculous shadows of what they once were. They live as teacups and napkins and furnishings, resembling their true selves in some ways but unable to be what humans were made to be. And they will be stuck this way forever, eternally dead to true humanness, if love doesn’t break the spell soon. Similarly, due to sin, we too are dying and are not the God-honouring creatures we were made to be. We couldn’t live our true purpose as the full, glorious, pride-of-the-universe humans.

Then Belle enters the castle, light streaming in as she opens the door. The candlestick Lumière asks, “What if she is the one, the one who will break the spell?” It reminds me of when the whole world was waiting for the Savior to be revealed. *“The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”* (Matthew 4:16).

We, like the Beast, are mean, nasty, selfish monsters, wallowing in our sin and incapable of escaping that condition on our own. Christ, like Belle, comes from outside of ourselves, from outside of the cursed castles of this world, to bring the salvation we cannot accomplish on our own.

When we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. *“Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:6-7).

Just as Belle’s love for the Beast broke the power of the curse on the Beast and the castle, Jesus’ death and resurrection break the power of sin and death over us, and we become children of God. Once we are adopted as God’s sons and daughters, nothing we do — past, present, future — can ever change that status and our standing before Him.

Jesus’ love saves us!



## JESUS' LOVE TRANSFORMS

Jesus' love doesn't just save us. It transforms us from the inside out.

Let me tell you about the story of a very terrifying man. (Acts 9:1-22) This man was a very proud and intelligent man, powerful and religious. He hated Jesus. He hated Jesus' disciples. He wanted to get rid of them.

In fact, one day, he went to the high priest and asked for letters that will allow him to search for and catch Jesus' believers and throw them into prison — doesn't matter if they are men or women. So off he went, with his men, to a town called Damascus.

As he came near to Damascus, ready to pounce on his victims, suddenly ... a light from heaven flashed around him! It was so bright! So frightening! The man fell to the ground.

And then he heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." If you knew someone was coming to catch you and put you in prison, wouldn't you feel the same as Ananias? You would be scared to come out of hiding.

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name. "

So Ananias obeyed. He went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from



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# JESUS' LOVE TRANSFORMS

Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

Everyone loves a good before-and-after story. Beast's monstrous exterior was a reflection of the cruelty in his heart, but he was made human again by experiencing Belle's selfless love.

Saul of Tarsus was a "beastly" figure transformed into a saint by the love of Christ. He went from one who wanted to murder and arrest anyone who spoke about Jesus ... to someone who couldn't stop talking about Him.

As in *Beauty and the Beast*, the motivating force behind our desire to change as well as the means to change itself come only our Heavenly Father and Saviour's love, and the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit still works in us today to soften our hearts and help us embody the love of Christ in a hurting world.

## **SUMMARY**

Like the Beast and those in his castle, we were under a curse due to sin — hopeless, purposeless.

Like Belle, Jesus is the One who breaks the spell. By His love and sacrifice on the Cross, He saved us from death to give us new life in Him.

And Jesus' love transforms us from the inside out to be who God made us to be.





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# JESUS' LOVE TRANSFORMS

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Invite the children to accept Jesus' love to save and transform them. Pray for one another.



## HOOK

### **VIDEO: Toy Story (10 mins)**

Andy's long outgrown toys have been sitting in a chest for many years, just yearning to be played with again.

Due to some accident, they ended up being donated. Feeling betrayed, they determined to put Andy behind them and chart their own destiny in a place where they'd never be outgrown, neglected, abandoned, forgotten or heartbroken again.

Only when they discovered that Andy was looking for them and never intended to throw them away did they realise how wrong they were to leave. Just knowing how much they were loved made them willing to endure many long years in the attic, just so that they could always be there for Andy.

In this movie, we're introduced to Big Baby, who cuts a terrifying figure with one eye half closed. Big Baby and Lotso belonged to a little girl named Daisy who had inadvertently left them behind at a road stop. Upon finding their way home, Lotso found out that he had been replaced. Bitter, he lied to Big Baby, saying, "She doesn't love you no more," tearing off Baby's necklace: a plastic heart that read "My heart belongs to Daisy".

This marked a change for both toys, turning Lotso into a hardened dictator and Big Baby into his unquestioning henchman. Only when Big Baby found out the truth and saw the necklace again was he able to stand up to Lotso and help Woody and his friends escape.



## LESSON

### OUR OWN MASTER?

There are times when we doubt how much God really loves us. Sometimes we think He's forgotten about us. Sometimes we are fed the lies that He doesn't want us anymore.

And then we think we don't need Him anyway, that we can do it on our own — be our own master.

**Wrong Belief → Wrong Decisions**

**Lies → Wrong Behaviour**

Just like Woody's friends. Just like Big Baby. Just like Lotso.

It's only when we realise who we belong to, and the extent of His unconditional, unwavering love for us, that we can respond and return to Him.

### THE GUY WHO WANTED TO BE BOSS (Luke 15:11-32)

This reminds me of a guy mentioned in the Bible. He had everything he needed in his father's house. But he believed he could be better off on his own. He wanted to be his own master. He wanted to do things his way. So he took his share of money and went off to live his life. He had a good time spending all that money. And then his money ran out, and he had nothing. He had to take care of pigs. He was so hungry ... he even wanted to eat the pigs' food.

Then he remembered how good life was with his father. Even then, he wasn't sure if his father still loved him or would accept him back as a son. So he decided to be his father's servant instead. But he was wrong ... his father was looking out for him, and when he saw him, he ran to him and swopped him up, kissed him (the dirty, stinky pigsty of a son), and gave him his robe and ring. He even threw a party for him.

When we try to run our lives our own way, we can end up in pretty big trouble. But God has not forgotten us. God has not rejected us. He still loves us very much and is always looking out for us.

### WE BELONG TO JESUS

And the best part? Unlike the toys' human owners who had their failings, God will never abandon (Deuteronomy 4:31), never forget (Isaiah 49:15), and never leave nor forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:8) ... ever.



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## I BELONG TO JESUS

In Isaiah 49:15-16, God asks a question, *“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne?”*

Do you think your mother will forget you? No!

But even if some mothers do forget their children, God goes on to say, *“Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands ...”*

Whenever we are feeling lost or lonely or unsure, remember, God has our names on His palms.

And just like Woody has Andy’s name on his shoe, we also have God’s mark on us to tell the world that we belong to Him. What is this mark? *The Holy Spirit.*

So always remember ... **YOU BELONG TO JESUS.**



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# I BELONG TO JESUS

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### Huddle Time

Get into small groups. Get the children to share and pray for each other.



## SKIT

### INCREDIGIRL MAKES HER CHOICE

ITEMS NEEDED: A super hero costume, a super-villain costume, a remote control

CHARACTERS:

Incredigirl - A super hero

Sid Badguy - Naughty villain

Sid Badguy enters, carrying the remote control.

SID: Oh for badness sake, where is that girl? It's only five minutes until the deadline. Doesn't she know that I'm serious? Doesn't she know that I, Sid Badguy, have the power in my hands to blow up the city zoo? Why is she running late? Where is my arch-enemy, Incredigirl?

Incredigirl enters from stage left.

INCREDIGIRL: Looking for me, Sid?

SID: Finally! I gave the mayor my deadline four hours ago!

INCREDIGIRL: Sorry, it was my grandma's birthday! She's ninety years old, and I wasn't going to leave the party early.

SID: That's very sweet, but your choice may prove costly. It is now four minutes until the deadline. My doomsday device is safely hidden some place in the zoo, and according to my spotters, there are at least three school groups on field trips there as well as a bus load of senior citizens.

INCREDIGIRL: You fiend!

SID: I know, right? I'm so naughty! But I will give you a choice. You can save the zoo if you surrender to me. You take off that cape and become my prisoner, and I will—

INCREDIGIRL: Done!

SID: What?

INCREDIGIRL: I surrender. Don't blow up the zoo, and I will be your prisoner.

SID: You can't surrender yet! I wasn't done telling you—

INCREDIGIRL: You don't have to! I surrender!



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## WONDERWOMAN: ESTHER

Credit: [www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/products/free-wonder-women-childrens-ministry-curriculum-lesson](http://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/products/free-wonder-women-childrens-ministry-curriculum-lesson)

SID: But you're Incredigirl! You never quit, and you never surrender!

INCREDIGIRL: Yeah, well, I just surrendered.

SID: To save a bunch of kids?

INCREDIGIRL: And the senior citizens. And the lions. And the lemurs. I love lemurs.

SID: I can't believe what I'm hearing. This is supposed to be a no-win situation. How can you just surrender?

INCREDIGIRL: Heroes aren't afraid to make the hard choice, Sid. My hero, Queen Esther, was brave enough to risk her life to save her people. If I can trade my life to save thousands of people—

SID: And lemurs?

INCREDIGIRL: And lemurs, I'm going to do it. Every time.

SID: Well this is a pickle. For me, not for you.

INCREDIGIRL: Why?

SID: Well, the truth is, I wasn't prepared to take you prisoner. I spent all my money on the doomsday device, and I didn't have any money left for a super hero proof prison cell.

INCREDIGIRL: You didn't save any money for the prison cell?

SID: I wasn't expecting you to surrender! I didn't think I'd need it!

INCREDIGIRL: Oh no! Please, whatever you do, don't blow up the zoo!

SID: Calm down, I'm not going to blow up the zoo. Super-villain's code, I can't blow up the zoo when you accept my ultimatum. However, I can't take you prisoner either, so ... you're free to go.

INCREDIGIRL: Just like that?

Sid hands Incredigirl the remote.

SID: You win this round, Incredigirl, but I'll be back!

Sid runs off stage right. He walks back on.

INCREDIGIRL: Back so soon?

SID: That was the closet. The exit is this way.

INCREDIGIRL: Oh, Sid!

They both exit stage left.



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# WONDERWOMAN: ESTHER

Credit: [www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/products/free-wonder-women-childrens-ministry-curriculum-lesson](http://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/products/free-wonder-women-childrens-ministry-curriculum-lesson)

## LESSON

### OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED: A jar of crunchy peanut butter and a jar of creamy peanut butter

Tomorrow, most of you will head to school, and tomorrow, those of you who do go to school will be eating lunch. My guess is most of you who are going to school and bringing a lunch from home will be taking a peanut butter sandwich. How many peanut butter sandwich eaters do we have here? How many hot lunch kids do we have?

Now, those of you who are peanut butter sandwich eaters, here's the real question. Crunchy, or creamy? Who here prefers crunchy? Who here prefers creamy?

Some decisions are no brainers. You don't have to think about crunchy vs. creamy because odds are you made that preference long, long ago. Same goes for those of you who are allergic. Peanut butter is always a no for obvious reasons!

Some decisions aren't so easy. Sometimes it's hard to know what's right and what's wrong. Sometimes it's pretty obvious that one thing is wrong, but it's hard to make the right choice when all your friends are making the wrong one. Do you have the strength to make the right choice, even when it's hard?

Let's learn about someone who had to make a hard choice ... she was just an ordinary woman, but with God, she became a Wonder Woman who saved many people's lives.

### STORY

There was once a beautiful girl named Esther. When her father and mother died, Esther's cousin, Mordecai, brought her up. Esther lived in Persia. But Esther was not Persian. She was Jewish. Her ancestors came to Persia as prisoners of war.

One day, the King of Persia was looking for a new wife. A search was made for a new queen. All the beautiful girls in the kingdom were brought before the king, and of all of them, the king chose Esther as his wife, his queen. Esther did not tell the king she was Jewish because her cousin told her not to.

The king had a rich key official called Haman. Haman wanted power and respect and honour from everyone. Everybody bowed when Haman passed by. Everybody except one man — Mordecai. As a Jew, Mordecai worshipped only the living God. This made Haman very angry. Haman hated Mordecai that he wanted to kill him and all the Jews in Persia. Haman tricked the king into signing a law that decreed that every Jew in the kingdom would be killed.





It was a terrible law. The Jews in Persia were afraid and scared. But God had prepared a plan to protect His people. God had placed a Jew in a very high and influential position — Esther, queen of Persia. She could save her people. But there was a big risk. Esther couldn't just appear before the king if he didn't ask for her. And she would have to expose herself as a Jew. If the King was angry, or in a bad mood, she could also be killed. Would she take that risk? Would she make that choice?

Her cousin, Mordecai, reminded Esther, *"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"* (Esther 4:14)

Queen Esther made her decision. She would rise up to save her people. She called for all the Jews in the land to pray with her before she goes to see the king. *"... though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die."* (Esther 4:16)

God gave Esther a clever idea. She invited the king and Haman to a banquet. And when the king was full and in a good mood, he promised her anything she wanted. She invited them for another dinner. And at that dinner, Esther rose up and told the king all about Haman's wicked plot to kill the people who worshipped God.

The king ordered Haman to be killed instead. And he passed another law allowing the Jews to defend themselves. The people were saved. Wonder Woman Queen Esther had stood up in faith, and God had protected her and her people.

## CONCLUSION

God made Esther queen so she could save her people. This was a picture of how He would send Jesus to earth as a man so He could save His people. Jesus also had a choice to make. In the Garden of Gethsemane, knowing HE was going to be crucified soon, He struggled and prayed to God. *"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me."* He could have walked away. He didn't have to suffer or be whipped or hung on the cross. But He made His choice. *"Yet not as I will, but as you will."* (Matthew 26:39)

Aren't you glad Jesus made that choice?

There may be times when we find ourselves faced with a tough choice and we have to make a difficult decision. We can do what Esther did. Pray. Ask others to pray with you. Ask God for the courage to make the right choice. Be brave enough to make the right choice, and who knows? God could make you a hero to someone who needs it.

As we have been learning the past few weeks from Psalm 18:

Jesus is my Lord; Jesus is my Deliverer; Jesus is my Strength, my Rock, my Fortress, my Shield.

With Jesus, all of us can be a Wonder Woman or super hero!



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# WONDERWOMAN: ESTHER

Credit: [www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/products/free-wonder-women-childrens-ministry-curriculum-lesson](http://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/products/free-wonder-women-childrens-ministry-curriculum-lesson)

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### SONG

Revise Psalm 18 theme song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qu3-zSRxOQw&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SL00FOS9H0A&feature=youtu.be&fref=gc&dti=10501348625150>

[6](#) (simplified)

### HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Get the children to about tough choices they have to make and pray that they will look to Christ for courage to make the right choices.

### GAME: SUPER HERO QUICK CHANGE

Prepare two sets of super hero costumes – mask, cape, belt, shoes etc.

Divide the class into two teams. Each team sends a representative super hero. The challenge is to see who can suit up their super hero the quickest. It can be in relay style: each team member runs to the superhero and puts on one part of the outfit, returns, tag the next team member.



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# TRANSFORMERS: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

## HOOK

### VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XetEmxZYm6E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zFLm8bpAN8> (younger kids)



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# TRANSFORMERS: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

## LESSON (Romans 12:2)

### Romans 12:2

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Who likes to watch Transformers? Who is your favourite character? One of the favourite characters is Optimus Prime. Optimus Prime is the leader of the good robots — he is a Prime, the king.

The show is based upon the Autobots (the good guys) versus the Decepticons (the bad guys). The Autobots are the protectors of the earth. The Decepticons are the destroyers of the earth. And there's always this battle between these Autobots and the Decepticons.

And they all called themselves robots in disguise. What do they disguise as? *Trucks, cars, planes, dinosaurs, whatever you have it*. How does the theme song go? *Transformers, more than meets the eye*.

Nowadays, we have a lot of Transformer toys. They are fun to play with, and you can convert them from car to robot and back. But These Transformers are only toys without any real powers.

But it may come as a surprise to some of you that there is a real Transformer who can totally change your life. That Transformer is Jesus!

And if you place your faith and trust in Jesus, He will transform your life into something that you never imagined.

### FROM THE INSIDE OUT

This transformation is more than meets the eye because something different takes place within us. Just like a caterpillar becoming a butterfly. And it's not just putting on a costume or a disguise—not like slapping on wings on a caterpillar—but we become new creations.

On a physical level, we may still look the same. We will still have two eyes, two ears, a nose and a mouth. Our hair is still dark brown, our face may still have pimples.

This transformation is also not just on a behavioural level. Jesus is not just interested in making us well-behaved boys and girls. He doesn't just want you to go from a noisy, naughty kid to one who sits still and be quiet and listen. That's just behaviour modification, or a mask we put on depending on who is in the room.

This transformation comes from the renewing of the mind. Our mind is very important. What goes into it comes out in the way we talk, act or behave.



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# TRANSFORMERS: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

If we focus on negative stuff — violence, foul language, bad behaviour, destruction — we will live out these things in our lives.

But when we know Jesus and fill our minds with His love and His finished work on the cross, something amazing changes within us. And when we are changed on the inside, when our mind is renewed, it also changes how we act, speak, behave.

We don't have to follow the patterns of the world anymore ("but all my friends are doing it ..."), because we know who we really are, and whose we are. We are transformed from the inside out!

## JESUS TRANSFORMED PAUL

[suggest getting teachers to act out this story as the lesson teacher narrates.]

The book of Romans is written by the apostle Paul. Paul understood what it meant to be transformed. After all, he had an amazing transformation experience when he met Jesus.

Before he met Jesus, Paul was called Saul. He was an enemy of the Church, and he did many terrible things to the followers of Jesus. He was even part of a group that stoned a man named Stephen because he was preaching about Jesus.

One day, Saul was traveling to the city of Damascus to hunt for Christians so that he could have them thrown into prison. On the way to Damascus, a bright light appeared and Saul heard the voice of Jesus saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

Saul answered, "Who are you, Lord?"

Jesus replied, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. I have appeared to appoint you as my servant and to be a witness for me."

After that meeting with Jesus, Saul's life was transformed. In fact, he even got a new name. From that day on, he became known as Paul and instead of trying to destroy the Church, he went from town to town preaching and teaching in the name of Jesus.

People were amazed at the change that took place in Paul's life. Wherever he went, people said of him, "The man who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."

That is what the transforming power of Jesus can do.



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# TRANSFORMERS: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

## JESUS TRANSFORMS

There is a transformation of life when we come to know Jesus because Jesus changes lives. That's what He does. If He lives in you, your life will be changed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

That's what happened to me.

[Share personal testimony: Before I came to know Jesus, I was ... After I knew Jesus, I have become ... Today, I still have issues with ... but I know that Jesus has not given up on me, and He is changing me from glory to glory]

Jesus changes lives. There is no-one in this world that can change your life like Jesus Christ. In Jesus you have forgiveness. In Jesus you have joy, you have hope, you have transformation.

Wouldn't you like to let Jesus transform your life?

*Heavenly Father, we want to feel the transforming power of Jesus in our life. In His name we pray.  
Amen.*

Let's read the key verse again:

### **Romans 12:2**

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

## VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2wkman6Xsc>

(Adapted from <https://gospellight.sg/sermons/transformers-more-than-meets-the-eye/>)



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# TRANSFORMERS: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### HUDDLE TIME

Get into small groups. Get the children to share areas in their lives where they want to experience the transforming power of Jesus. Pray for each other.