



5. Jesus' ministry

Actions so far: Creation (*circle*), Fall (*hands fall down*), Abraham (*point at stars*), Joseph (*coat*), Moses (*parting hands*), Judges (*hammer*), Prophets (*pointing*), Jesus is born (*baby*).

Props: projector, laptop (or memory stick for school PC), screen, song, Mary shawl, shades, bandages, young Jesus jacket, adult Jesus tunic, something waterproof, 4 prompt signs.

Introduction

Can anyone remember what the story was about last time?

Last time we heard about Jesus being born in Bethlehem. Today we are going to follow Jesus as he grows up. As we go, we are going to find out about some of the things Jesus said and did, and how he kept all of the rules God gave his people. See if you can remember the rules, and the actions that go with them:

Worship God (*hands in the air*)

Respect yourself (*hands on chest*)

Love one another (*hands clasped out in front*)

Make good use of the world (*make shape of the world*)

Get 4 children out if you have 3 leaders, or 5 children if there are 2 leaders, and sit them across the front. Explain that we are also going to have a storm in this story so we will need everyone to waves their arms and make the noise of the wind, but when Jesus says, "Be still!" everyone has to stop. Have a practice.

Story

Narrator

Mary (shawl)/God's Enemy(shades)/Leper (bandages)/Disciple

Jesus (if there are only 2 leaders, get a child to play Jesus throughout, if there are 3 leaders, get a child to play Jesus for part 1 – the child can then also hold the prompt sign) (jacket for young Jesus, tunic for adult Jesus)

4 children to hold prompt signs (see above)

Part 1

N Here's Jesus. He is 12 years old. He had been visiting Jerusalem with his family for the Passover festival. Mary and Joseph had set off home for Nazareth. They thought Jesus was with them, but he had stayed behind in the temple. He was listening to the teachers, asking them questions and teaching others about God. Everyone was amazed by what he said.

M Jesus! Jesus! Has anyone seen Jesus? (Keep asking audience until they point him out) Oh there you are! I have looked everywhere; I was so worried about you! Why would you do this to us?

N Jesus looked at Mary for a moment, then asked, "Didn't you know I would be in my Father's house?!"
The Temple is often called God's house so, as God's son, that was where Jesus wanted to be.

What was the first rule we learnt? Yes, it was Worship God (*do action together and then give the child who was playing Jesus the prompt card to hold*). Even as a boy, Jesus wanted to spend time in the Temple worshipping God. Christians believe that the reason Jesus could already teach people so much about God was because he was God (remember at Christmas that we said God was going to go to earth as a baby). But Christians believe Jesus was also a human, just like you and me, and things weren't always easy for him.

Part 2

N Jesus is now about 30 years old. He had gone into the desert to be alone and get ready to start telling everyone about God. He hadn't eaten anything for 40 days and 40 nights. He was very hungry. Just as his tummy was rumbling, God's enemy crept up and whispered in his ear, "If you really are God's son, turn these rocks into bread so you can eat". But Jesus replied, "Food isn't all we need to live, we need God too." So God's enemy took Jesus to the very top of the temple and shouted, "Jump off! Go on! If you are really God's Son, He'll send his angels to catch you!" Perhaps Jesus was scared, but all he said was, "Don't try to test God." So finally God's enemy took Jesus to the top of a high mountain and showed him the whole world. He boasted, "I will give you all of this if you just bow down and worship me!" "Go away!" Jesus cried, "The scripture says to worship God and no one else." And with that, God's enemy left.

What was the second rule we learnt? Yes, it was to Respect yourself (*do action together and then give a child the prompt card and shades*). Christians believe Jesus was perfect – he was tempted to do the wrong thing, just like we are, perhaps he found it hard, but he never did anything wrong.

Part 3

N As Jesus was travelling around, a man with a disease called leprosy came to him. Now people with leprosy weren't allowed to go near anyone who is healthy, in fact most people avoided them at all costs. They couldn't even visit their friends or family. So the man fell down on his knees and begged Jesus, "If you want to, you can make me well!" Jesus looked at the man; he cared about him and felt sorry for him. Now healthy people weren't supposed to touch anyone with leprosy, but Jesus reached out, touched the man and said, "I want to! Be healed." Straight away the man was well. Now he could have a normal life again. He was so excited that he went to tell everyone, even though Jesus had told him to keep it a secret.

What was the third rule we learnt? Yes, it was to Love one another (*do action together and then give a child the prompt card and leper's bandage*). Jesus loves everyone, even the people no one else cares about, like the man with leprosy.

Part 4

N One day, Jesus and his friends were travelling in a boat across the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was asleep. Suddenly there was a fierce storm (*get all the children to pretend to be the storm*), the wind began to howl, and the waves began to crash and the rain beat down on the boat. Jesus' friends were terrified. They ran to wake him up, shouting, "Save us, we're going to drown!" Jesus held up his hand and shouted, "Be still!" and all at once the rain stopped, the sea went still, and the wind went quiet. Jesus' friends were amazed, and wondered how just how this man could calm a storm.

What was the fourth rule we learnt? Yes, it was to Make good use of the world (*do action together and then give a child the prompt card and something waterproof*). Christians believe that because Jesus was God, he made the world and so he is in charge of it. We can't make good use of the world in the same way as Jesus, but later on we will think about some of the things we can do.

Conclusion:

Let's see if we can use our actions, and the people standing at the front here to remember the four parts of God's rules and the different things we learnt about Jesus. *(As you go through each one, turn the children's prompt cards around. If you are short on time, don't ask the questions, just explain)*

- 1) Worship God
 - a. How did Jesus worship God?
 - b. Can you think of ways we can worship God?
- 2) Respect yourself
 - a. How did Jesus respect himself?
 - b. Can you think of ways we can respect ourselves?
- 3) Love one another
 - a. How did Jesus love others?
 - b. Can you think of ways we can love others?
- 4) Make Good use of the world
 - a. How did Jesus make good use of the world?
 - b. Can you think of ways we can make good use of the world?

Finally, we need some actions to remember today's story. In the first part of the story, what was Jesus doing in the temple? He was teaching, so our first action is 'Jesus teaches' (*use hands to make a book*). When Jesus healed the leper and calmed the storm, he was doing things that seemed impossible. Do you know what the word Christians use for God doing the impossible is? It's a miracle, so our second action is 'Jesus does miracles' (*jazz hands*). Great, let's see if we can remember all the actions.

Song:

Do you know – John Hardwick. This can be downloaded from iTunes or Amazon.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for sending your son Jesus to earth. Thank you that he stuck by all your rules and is a perfect example for us to follow. Please help us to do our best in our ways to worship you, respect ourselves, love one another and make good use of the world. Amen.