



CANDIDATES SUNDAY YOUTH CELL

Scripture Passage:

- Colossians 3:1-2 (*The Message*)

‘So if you’re serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don’t shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up and be alert to what is going on around Christ - that’s where the action is. See things from his perspective.’

PREPARATION

You will need:

- Bibles
- Pens and paper
- The YouTube video [Disney and Pixar Sings This is Me From the Greatest Showman](#)
- Appendix A - Jeopardy questions
- Sweets for prizes
- The song ‘[Build my Life](#)’ (*Housefires*)
- Appendix B - Printable ‘Be Alert’ cards
- Optional - pocket-sized notebooks for each young person

INTRODUCTION

This Candidates Sunday, we want to remind people to ‘Be Alert’! Inspired by Colossians 3:1-2 we are challenged to ***be alert to what is going on around Christ***. It is a strong call to pay attention to all that God is doing and understand what our response must be.

If we want to see what Jesus is doing in our communities, if we want to strive to be like him, then we need to know who he is and what he looks like! We recognise Jesus in the miraculous and extraordinary, but he is also present in the everyday. This session will help us dig into some of the characteristics of Jesus, helping us to know him better. As we ‘look up’ we’re invited to notice and be encouraged, but also to get on board and consider how we can join in with the work of Jesus and what he is calling us to now and in the future.

WELCOME

- **Impressions**

Ask members of the group if they’re able to do impressions but to show not tell! Can the group guess who they’re doing an impression of? Vote for who can do the best one and have prizes available for the best and worst! Ask the impressionists how they realised they could do this impression, and how they went about perfecting it.



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- **Jeopardy**

Divide the group into two teams. Using Appendix A, give the young people the answer, while they must reply with the question. As the questions get harder, so do the point values. Allow teams to choose which point value they want to go for to add an extra element of challenge and competition.

WORD

*'So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. **Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ** - that's where the action is. See things from his perspective.'* (Colossians 3:1-2 *The Message*)

This week we're thinking about what it means to 'Be Alert'. While we believe that Jesus is present and active in the world around us, sometimes we just have to take time to notice. Or perhaps we don't see him working because we're not quite sure what he looks like?

Show the YouTube video [Disney and Pixar Sings This is Me From the Greatest Showman](#). Brian Hull, the voice actor in the video, says: 'The first step in my process is research. You go through and watch as much as you can of this character, and learn how they act and think and feel. Half of doing an impression is sounding like it, and the other half is acting like the character. I found it's really important to *know* the character first, then go in and start playing around with the voice.'

If we want to see where Jesus is active and working, we need to know what we're looking for. We need to *know him!* So how do we get to know Jesus? The Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - give first-hand accounts of the life of Jesus. They are stories told by the people who walked with him, ate with him and worked with him. By reading about who Jesus was, where he went and what he did, we can begin to see who Jesus was, where Jesus is and what Jesus does now.

Divide the young people into four groups and give each group one of the four Bible verses to explore the questions: What do these stories tell us about Jesus? What can we learn from him?

1. *John 2:1-12* - Jesus was invited to the wedding at Cana as a **friend**, part of his community. He was the Son of God, a teacher and a holy man, but he wasn't separate from people. The bride and groom chose him to be at their wedding. Jesus invested in relationships with people and was present in many moments of people's lives - in celebration, in grief, and everything in between.



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2. *Mark 6:3* - Before Jesus launched on the scene as a teacher and miracle worker, he was known by his trade. The crowds asked, 'Isn't this the **carpenter?**' The people around Jesus knew him from the job that he had done up to that time. He had worked hard to learn the skills of the trade and would have had rough, strong hands from the work that he did.
3. *John 1:3* - **Creator** of all things. Nothing exists without him. From the beginning, Jesus has been involved in the work of creation - flinging stars into space in his first incarnation and then using tools and the resources found in nature to create physical objects of useful value to the people around him.
4. *John 8:1-11 and Mark 10:13-16* - In both of these stories, we see Jesus stop those with power to **advocate** for those who had none. John 8 says Jesus 'straightened up and said...' (v7) and in Mark 10 Jesus was, 'indignant' (v14). In these moments of oppression or rejection, Jesus rose up, stood tall and spoke with anger and authority on behalf of those who would have only ever had anger and authority used against them, not for them.

ACTIVITIES

- **Who was Jesus?**

Invite the young people to make up their own 'Jeopardy' questions about Jesus. What do we know about him? What are the characteristics that make him identifiable to others?

- **Stories of Jesus**

We have already identified Jesus as a friend, creator and advocate. As a group, see if they can come up with a few more stories; and then, using a large piece of paper, share and write down what these stories tell us about Jesus. At the end of this activity you should have a page of words that describe who Jesus is.

- **Looking out**

Using the list of characteristics from the previous activity, ask the young people to get into groups of two or three and think about where they have seen Jesus active in the world around them. Being alert to what Jesus is doing means looking out and finding where he is at work.

How have they seen the gift of friendship really make a difference to someone else? Can they think of a person who has used their creative skills to make the world better or more beautiful for the people around them? Can they think of any situations where they have seen someone advocating for the vulnerable? How about some of the other characteristics on the list they've put together?



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WORSHIP

If knowing what Jesus looks like is phase one, and being alert to what God is doing around us is phase two, then phase three is considering what our response should be.

Ephesians 2:10 says, 'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' *The Message* paraphrase says, 'He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does.'

We have already spent some time considering where God is active in the world around us; the next step is to ask how he wants each of us to get involved. As we move into some prayer and worship, we're going to ask how we can be alert to what God is doing not only around us but *in* us. Encourage the young people to think about where Jesus is active in their home, school or community. Have they realised that he may already be using them? Or maybe they have been reminded of a situation where there is an open door for them to jump on board with what he is doing.

Listen to the song [*Build my Life \(Housefires\)*](#).

Some of the key lyrics of this song are:

'...Open up my eyes in wonder.
Show me who you are and fill me
With your heart and lead me
In your love to those around me.'

Hand out the 'Be Alert' cards (Appendix B). As the young people listen to the song, ask them to write the lyrics above in the space provided within the card. Take time to pray that these words would be a reality in their lives and encourage them to keep the cards as a reminder to 'be alert' to how and where God is at work.

RESPONSE

Ask the young people to be 'Jesus-hunting journalists', hungry for the big scoop! This week, challenge them to 'Be Alert' to what Jesus is doing around them: to look up, find and point out Jesus. Ask them to keep notes of what they've seen and how they feel they're being asked to respond to that themselves.

As an extra challenge you could ask them to come prepared next week with a report of what they've seen and heard, just like a reporter would. If resources allow, you could provide each young person with a mini pocket-sized note book and pencil for this purpose.



APPENDICES

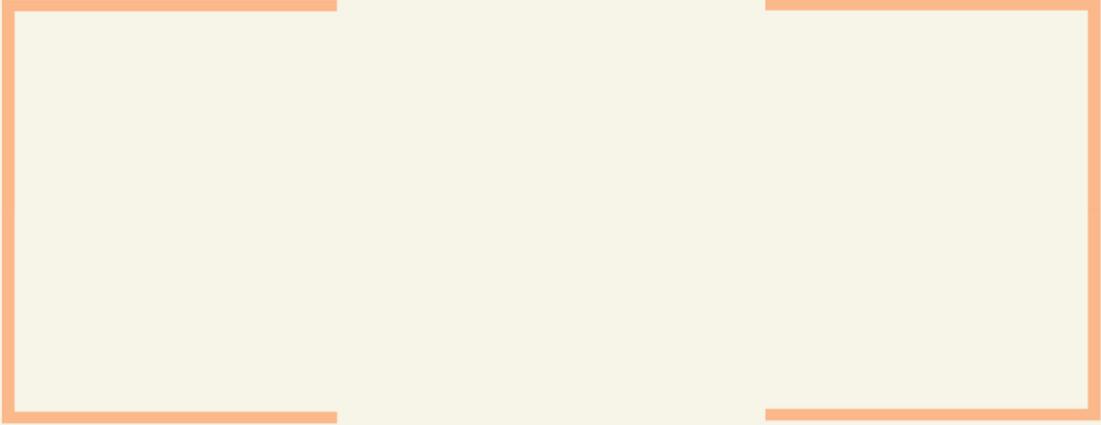
APPENDIX A - Jeopardy questions

1. 100 points
Answer: Former President of the USA, born in Hawaii.
Question: *Who is Barack Obama?*
2. 150 points
Answer: Started off as an actress/singer on Disney Channel - performed 'Wrecking Ball' and first became famous playing Hannah Montana.
Question: *Who is Miley Cyrus?*
3. 200 points
Answer: Born in England, author of *Harry Potter* books.
Question: *Who is J.K. Rowling?*
4. 250 points
Answer: Luton-born woman known for hard-hitting documentaries and competition-winning dance skills.
Question: *Who is Stacey Dooley?*
5. 300 points
Answer: Originally one of the lead vocalists of 'N Sync, he later became an actor and solo artist. He has won nine Grammy Awards and four Emmy Awards.
Question: *Who is Justin Timberlake?*
6. 350 points
Answer: Jewish, she hid in an attic in Amsterdam. Her diary became a famous book.
Question: *Who is Anne Frank?*
7. 450 points
Answer: Famous painter, moved from Netherlands to France. He cut off a part of his ear. He is known for the painting 'Starry Night'.
Question: *Who is Vincent Van Gogh?*
8. 500 points
Answer: Known for her many charitable works, including helping people with HIV/Aids and leprosy in India. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.
Question: *Who is Mother Teresa?*



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APPENDIX B - 'Be Alert' cards



 'LOOK UP, AND BE ALERT TO WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND CHRIST - THAT'S WHERE THE ACTION IS. SEE THINGS FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE'

[COLOSSIANS 3:2 THE MESSAGE]