



CELL

OUTLINES

SHARE THE
GOOD NEWS

These Cell Outlines are written by Youth and Children's Ministries. They are available every month from our website. For more information and other Cell resources, visit salvationarmy.org.uk/children-and-youth-resources

INTRODUCTION

Throughout these sessions we will be exploring how we can share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We'll discover what Jesus said about himself, what others said about him and what we have to say about him as we tell others the Good News.

SESSION ONE: WHAT DID PEOPLE SAY ABOUT JESUS?

In Session One we will take ourselves back to the ministry of Jesus and look at the different ways people reacted to him. Who did they think Jesus was and what did they say about him? We will start to consider our own beliefs and feelings about Jesus and how that should lead us to share what we know with others.

SESSION TWO: SHARE THE GOOD NEWS – MESSIAH

In Session Two we'll think about the idea of Jesus as the Messiah. We'll explore Old Testament prophecies, consider the expectation placed on Jesus as the Messiah, and discover whether he matched that expectation. As we continue to understand more who Jesus is, this will help us to grow in confidence sharing the Good News with others.

SESSION THREE: SHARE THE GOOD NEWS – SON OF GOD

In Session Three we discover more about Jesus as the Son of God, about who described him this way and whether this was a term used in the Old Testament. Revisiting John 3:16, we'll discuss what God sending his son means for us and how it should impact our willingness to share our faith with others.

SESSION FOUR: SHARE THE GOOD NEWS – SON OF MAN

Jesus is described as the Messiah, the Son of God and the Son of Man. In today's session we will delve into what the phrase Son of Man means and how it deepens our understanding of Jesus. We will pull together everything we have discussed in the sessions so far and consider how we can share this with those who do not yet know Jesus.

If you decide to run a physical (socially distanced) meeting, you will need to complete a risk assessment form. We also recommend you read the guidance document provided by Safe Mission. Please consult your corps officer or DHQ for further info.



WHAT DID PEOPLE SAY ABOUT JESUS?

In this session we will take ourselves back to the ministry of Jesus and look at the different ways people reacted to him. Who did they think Jesus was and what did they say about him? We will start to consider our own beliefs and feelings about Jesus and how that should lead us to share what we know with others.

WELCOME

- * If I posted the following on social media, how would you respond?

'I'm isolating for the next ten days and need binge-watching recommendations. Tell me what you've been watching and why I should watch it. I'll go with the most convincing recommendation.'

Ask the group to share their recommendations with you and then decide who was the most convincing.

- * Why did you want to convince me to watch your choice?
- * What does it feel like when we share something we have discovered and someone responds in a positive way?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

We often get excited about films, music or books that we have experienced and want others to discover them as well.

- * Do you think as Christians we feel the same way about Jesus? If not, why not?

WORD

The aim of these sessions is to deepen our understanding of Jesus by exploring what others said about him and what he said about himself.

When Jesus started his ministry, people responded in different ways. Although many followed him, there were others who turned away. In John 7:5 we discover that even his own family struggled to understand who he was.

Share out the Scripture references among the group, and ask them to consider the following:

- * As you explore the Scriptures, imagine the characters discussing what they witnessed and experienced.
- * When asked the question, 'Who is Jesus?', how do you think they answered?

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Religious leaders – Mark 8:11-12; Matthew 19:3-9; Matthew 22:15-22.

Romans – Matthew 8:5-13; John 18:29-38.

Those he healed – John 4:46-54; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 7:11-17.

Those who were despised – John 8:2-11; Luke 19:1-10.

Ask the group to share what they have discovered and discuss the following question:

- * If you had been living at the time of Jesus, hearing all these stories, who would you think Jesus was?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Discuss the following quote by CS Lewis taken from the book *Mere Christianity*, published in 1952.

-  Do you agree with what CS Lewis is saying?
-  These words were written in 1952 – are they still applicable today?

“ I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.” That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.’

— CS LEWIS, *MERE CHRISTIANITY*, CH 3

WITNESS

Watch the clip.

-  **‘Who is Jesus?’ – Real answers from real people (1 min 48 sec)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7H67BoHDdo>

-  How do you think your friends would answer the question, ‘Who is Jesus?’

Whether you’re new to Christianity or have been a Christian for many years, it’s important to stop every now and then to answer this seemingly simple question:

-  Who do you think Jesus is?

Discuss the question together and then ask the group to jot down their own answer to the question. We’ll revisit this in later sessions. Encourage the group to use a journal or notes page that they can bring along to the next session.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

In one of the passages earlier we read about Pilate’s encounter with Jesus.

‘Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”’

— JOHN 18:33-34

Reflect on your answer to the question, ‘Who do you think Jesus is?’

-  Is that your own idea, or did others talk to you about Jesus?

WORSHIP

If one of our main purposes is to share the good news of Jesus with others, then it is important to take the time to reflect on who he is.

Give the group the opportunity to reflect on what they have discovered in today's session and think about the following question:

 Who is Jesus to you?

 **'What a Beautiful Name '- Hillsong Worship (5 min 42 sec)**

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

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

After the time of reflection, discuss the following question:

 Who is Jesus to you?

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS – MESSIAH

This session we'll think about the idea of Jesus as the Messiah. We'll explore Old Testament prophecies, consider the expectation placed on Jesus as the Messiah, and discover whether he matched that expectation. As we continue to understand more who Jesus is, this will help us to grow in confidence sharing the Good News with others.

WELCOME

- * How would you feel if you were the excited parents staging their grand Disney reveal and you got this reaction?

 **Kids Disappointed At Disneyland Tickets (1 min 18 sec)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8pptVevmak>

- * Have you ever waited a really long time for a special event to happen? What was it?
- * How did it feel while you were waiting?
- * Did the event live up to your expectations? If so, how?
- * Were any of the events you waited for an anticlimax? If so, in what way?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

- * When you were a child did you ever ask for a specific gift for your birthday?
- * Did you receive the gift?
- * What was it, and what did it feel like when you did/didn't get the gift you were expecting?

WORD

- * One of the ways Jesus is described is as 'the Messiah'; but what do you think the word Messiah means?

In Hebrew, Messiah simply means anointed. Priests and prophets were anointed with oil as they commenced their role. Anointing became part of the coronation of the monarch.

 **Read 1 Samuel 16:11-13.**

-  What was significant about the anointing of David? (v12)
-  What immediately changed for David once he was anointed? (v13)

The Messiah was the anointed and chosen one. The Jewish people had waited a long time for their Messiah.

Explore the following Scriptures:

-  What would the Jewish people have expected a Messiah to be like?

2 Samuel 7:12-13 Isaiah 11:1-4 Ezekiel 34:23-24

Read Luke 19:28-35, or watch the following clip.

 **LUMO Project Gospel of Luke 19:28-48 (3 min 29 sec)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLOSiWSwfO4>

-  Do you think Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem lined up with the expectations of the Jewish people? If not, why not?

Read Zechariah 9:9.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, he would have known about the prophetic words of Zechariah – and so would the people watching.

-  What do you think Jesus was trying to say about himself as he lived out the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9?
-  What do Luke 22:67-71 and Mark 14:60-62 tell us about whether Jesus viewed himself as the Messiah?
-  Do you think describing Jesus as the 'Messiah' is useful for Christians today? Explain your response.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Was Jesus really the Messiah foretold in prophecy? (3 min 45 sec)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rf0GnvOgScI>

-  What more do you discover about Jesus in this clip?

WORSHIP

In The Salvation Army we have a strong tradition of sharing the Good News of Jesus in innovative and creative ways. We often do this within our worship services.

Watch the following clip and share ideas about creative ways you could share the Good News of Jesus with others.

Silent Monks Sing the Hallelujah Chorus (3 min 40 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRhjWdr-LAA>

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

-  What opportunities are there for the group to make their ideas come to life?

See if any of the group members are willing to act on the initial ideas discussed and set in place a plan to meet and develop one of the ideas.

WITNESS

'That's What You Drive?' Zechariah 9:9 Our Daily Bread Video Devotional (2 min 58 sec)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19KbZUTVi3Q>

-  What good news is there in this clip to share with those who don't know about Jesus yet?
-  In the first session you jotted down your response to the question 'Who do you think Jesus is?'

Reflecting on today's session, update or add to your answer to the question.

-  Does anything you have discovered so far prompt you to share what you know about Jesus with others?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

A dictionary defines 'messiah' differently from the original Hebrew:

1. the promised deliverer of the Jewish nation prophesied in the Hebrew Bible.
2. a leader regarded as the saviour of a particular country, group, or cause. 'The club's supporters have been tempted to regard him as a messiah rather than a manager.'

-  How do these meanings differ from the original Hebrew?
-  How do you think the different interpretations of this word impact how people see Jesus?
-  Do you see Jesus as the Messiah? If so, then what do you mean by that?

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS – SON OF GOD

We'll discover more about Jesus as the Son of God, about who described him this way and whether this was a term used in the Old Testament. Revisiting John 3:16, we'll discuss what God sending his son means for us and how it should impact our willingness to share our faith with others.

WELCOME

Sharing the Good News of our faith is an essential part of being a Christian.

The actress Letitia Wright has starred in films such as *Black Panther* and *Ready, Player One*. When she received her BAFTA she took to the opportunity to tell the world about her faith.

 **Letitia Wright - BAFTA Speech (2 min 19 sec)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHzb-5QDVjM>

-  What is your response to Letitia's speech?
-  If you received a BAFTA, Sportsperson of the Year Award or Tony Award, how would your faith feature in your acceptance speech?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Give the group a couple of minutes to choose an award to accept and write a short acceptance speech. Share and discuss their ideas.

WORD

Today we will be exploring what it means when Jesus is described as the Son of God and we will consider how this is relevant when we share our faith with others.

Other than in the Gospel of John, there are very few times where Jesus describes himself as the Son of God. It is generally others who describe him this way.

Read the following Scriptures where Jesus is described as the Son of God.

-  Who describes Jesus this way?
-  Why is it significant?

Luke 1:31-36 Luke 3:21-22 Luke 4:3 & 9 Luke 9:35

Watch the clip and note down what you have discovered about Jesus as the Son of God.

 **Why is Jesus called the Son of God? (7 min 34 sec)**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJhrOTA_-io

Psalm 2 is widely known as a Messianic Psalm, but it also references Jesus as the Son of God.

-  **Read Psalm 2**
-  What references are there to Jesus as the Son of God?
-  Why is Psalm 2 so significant?

 Read the *Amplified Version* of John 3:16 and discuss what we learn about Jesus in this verse.

‘For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Saviour] shall not perish, but have eternal life.’

— JOHN 3:16 (AMP)

 Read John 20:30-31 from *The Message* paraphrase.

‘Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.’

— JOHN 20:30-31 (THE MESSAGE PARAPHRASE)

 Who did John believe Jesus is?

 Why did John think it was so important to share the good news of Jesus?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

In the clip Andrew Chalmers says the following:

“ ‘Why is it important that we know Jesus is the Son of God? Because when we believe that God sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to die on our behalf as God’s son, and we put our faith in him as the Son of God, the Bible says that we can have life in his name.’

— ANDREW CHALMERS

 How does the answer to this question link with The Salvation Army’s new vision statement, ‘Fullness of life for all with Jesus’?

WORSHIP

Spend time reflecting on the words of John 3:16 while watching the Scripture Meditation clip.

 **Scripture Meditation – John 3:16 (1 min 52 sec)**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXp9Li_-dUc

Pause the clip at 1 min 40 and share the prayer on the screen together.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Discuss the following question:

 Who is Jesus to you?

 We considered this question in the first session, but has your understanding changed as you have discovered more about Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God?

WITNESS

 What do you find easy/difficult when it comes to sharing the good news of Jesus?

Watch the following clip.

 **How to Share your Faith with Anyone/How to Share the Gospel (1 min 50sec)**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uX3Vt_9Qx1A

- 🗨️ How can you adapt and use some of the suggestions in the clip when you are sharing your faith with others?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Earlier in the session we mentioned The Salvation Army's new vision statement: 'Fullness of life for all with Jesus.'

- * As you think of those within your family and friendship group that do not know Jesus, how is this vision statement applicable to them?

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS – SON OF MAN

Jesus is described as the Messiah, the Son of God and the Son of Man. In today's session we will delve into what the phrase Son of Man means and how it deepens our understanding of Jesus. We will pull together everything we have discussed in the sessions so far, and consider how we can share this with those who do not yet know Jesus.

WELCOME

NAME THE FAMOUS PARENT

Look at the pictures of the celebrity children and see if you can name their famous father.

If the group is struggling then use the clues below.

1. Child: Brooklyn Beckham
Parent: David Beckham – Clue: Bend it like...
2. Child: Blue Ivy
Parent: Jay-Z Clue – Part of an American power couple
3. Child: Prince George
Parent: Prince William – Clue: HRH
4. Child: Jaden Smith
Parent: Will Smith – Clue: Getting jiggy with it
5. Child: Tom Holland
Parent: Dominic Holland – Clue: TV funnyman
6. Child: Malia & Sasha Obama
Parent: Barack Obama – Clue: The 44th
7. Child: Zoe Kravitz
Parent: Lenny Kravitz – Clue: Are You Gonna Go My Way
8. Child: Tilly Ramsay
Parent: Gordon Ramsay – Clue: Shouty swearsy man
9. Child: Colin Hanks
Parent: Tom Hanks – Clue: Hollywood Royalty ... and such a lovely man!
10. Child: Archie Mountbatten
Parent: Prince Harry – Clue: HRH ... for now!

* Which one feels like the odd one out?

Dominic Holland is a comedian and TV presenter whereas his son is a Hollywood superstar and is significantly more famous than his father.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

- * What do you think it would be like to have a parent that is a megastar?
- * What would be the advantages/disadvantages?

WORD

The Son of Man was the most common way that Jesus described himself.

 Before we delve into this topic, what do you think Jesus meant when he described himself this way?

So far we have explored Jesus as the Messiah, as the Son of God, and today we'll learn about the Son of Man. We may see the terms Son of God and Son of Man as representing Jesus' deity and humanity, but it's not quite that straightforward.

 **Son of Man - Bible Project (5 min 50 sec)**
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/son-of-man>

In Daniel's vision, he sees four beasts, but in the middle of the chaos he sees a man.

 **Read Daniel 7:13-14**

 What do we discover about the Son of Man in these verses?

The people of God had to wait a long time for the Son of Man. He was the one who would be able to overcome the evil of the world (the beast) and show others how to do the same.

 How do the following Scriptures add to your understanding of Jesus as the Son of Man?

Explore the following Scriptures to discover how Jesus used this term.

Mark 14:62 John 3:13 Luke 19:10 Matthew 8:20 John 5:19

The Bible Project clip finishes with the following quote.

“ Jesus is the first human to overcome the beast and as a result he can partner with God to rule the world. And so now Jesus is summoning a new humanity into existence. One that can overcome the beast in the same paradoxical way, to rule the beast by dying, and then by discovering that Jesus' life and power can become our life and power. So we can rule the world as God's partners but Jesus style, in the power of service, humility and self-giving love.”

— SON OF MAN – BIBLE PROJECT

 After reading the final statement of the Bible Project clip, how does the description 'Son of Man' add to your understanding of Jesus?

 What do you think it looks like to 'rule the world as God's partners Jesus style'?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

If there are those in the group that would like to explore this topic in more depth, then read Mark 14:53-65 with them and discuss the following clip.

 **The Significance of the title 'Son of Man' – N.T.Wright (4 min 18 sec)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXQbBhNSkHs>

WORSHIP

Listen to Sara Groves singing about the awkward moment when she tried to share her faith. Think about the following questions as you listen, and discuss them with the rest of the group when the song has finished.

 In what ways can you relate to the feelings Sara shares in her song?

 Who comes to mind as you listen to these words?

 'Conversations' – Sara Groves (4 min 17 sec)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCKi2SpaVAo>

 'Conversations' – Written by Sara Groves

I don't know how to say this
I don't know where to stand
I don't where to put my feet
Or where to put my hands
I got them my pockets
My fingers are freezing cold
They're wrapped around a ticket stub
That's four weeks old
And I don't know how to say this

I think we figured out
This world is bigger than you and I
We've exhausted our wealth, knowledge,
Have no more answers for mankind
And we've had every conversation in the world
About what is right and what has all gone bad
But have I mentioned to you that this is all I am
This is all that I have

And I'm not trying to judge you
No that's not my job
I am just a seeker, too
In search of good
Somewhere, somehow the subject became taboo
I have no other way to communicate to you
That this is all that I have, this is all that I am

And we've had every conversation in the world
About what is right and what has all gone bad
But have I mentioned to you that this is all I am
This is all that I have

And I would like to share with you
What makes me complete
I don't claim to have found the truth
But I know it has found me

The only thing that isn't meaningless to me
Is Jesus Christ and the way he set me free
And this is all that I have, this is all that I am
It's all that I have, and it's all

The only thing that isn't meaningless to me
Is Jesus Christ and the way he set me free
And this is all that I have, this is all that I am
It's all that I have, and it's all that I am
It's all that I have, and it's all
I don't know how to say this
I don't know where to start
Just know that I care for you
And I'm speaking from my heart

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

**'The only thing that isn't meaningless to me
Is Jesus Christ and the way he set me free
And this is all that I have, this is all that I am'**

— SARA GROVES

- 🗨️ Is this the lyric you would have written about the importance of Jesus in your life? If so, why? If not, why not?

WITNESS

In Session One we discussed whether there should be any difference between excitedly telling a friend about a film we've seen and telling them about Jesus.

- 🗨️ After all we've discussed over the past four sessions, do you feel more confident to share your faith with others? If so, why?
- 🗨️ People have lots of ideas about who Jesus is that are often not based on accurate information. Although we can never have all the answers, why is it important for us to keep discovering more about Jesus?
- 🗨️ In what ways is our faith misrepresented by those who profess to be Christians?

Even as Christians we can buy into other people's ideas of who Jesus is, without discovering him for ourselves.

📖 **Read John 18:33-34.**

'Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"'

— JOHN 18:33-34

- 🗨️ As you consider your own faith journey, is your understanding of Jesus based on your own growing relationship with him or is it purely through the input of others?

Sharing the good news of Jesus is not an optional extra to our Christian faith; it's an integral part of our relationship with God. A rehearsed speech generally isn't always the best way to go, but we need to ask God to provide opportunities for us to share our faith with others.

- 🗨️ Think about your average week. Taking each day and each situation, what opportunities are there to share the good news of Jesus?

Encourage the group to take those opportunities over the coming week and share their experiences with you.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

The following clip is based on an American Football analogy but can be easily applied to the church here in the UK.

Watch the clip and discuss how it challenges you to share the Good News, not just on a Sunday, but every day of the week.

▶️ **Get off the bench! – Francis Chan – (1 min 57 sec)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeDVffgzLGg&t=117s>