

LEADERS GUIDE

SPOKENTRUTH

GOSPEL TRUTH • SPOKEN WORD



SESSION 5

BEAT 4 MESSIAH

INTRO

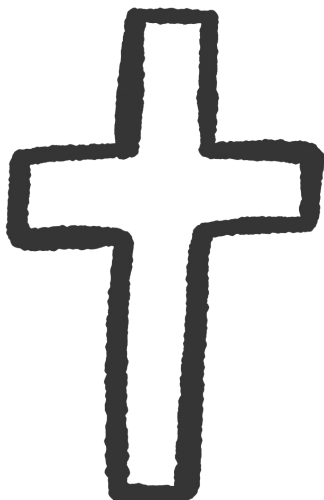
Convo kick-starter (3minutes)

Below is a convo kick-starter for Session 5. You will also find a session link for reference.

1. If you were to build your own superhero, what would they look like? What superpowers would they have? *(This can also be an icebreaker where they draw their superhero.)*

SESSION LINK

Jesus is the ultimate superhero.



ICEBREAKERS

Record breakers

The following icebreakers are 60-second challenges, often with a chance of breaking a world record (all world records are correct as of March 2024). With each icebreaker challenge there is a link to the session's theme. If you have a scoring system in your youth group, you could award an extra point if they guess how the challenge connects to the theme of the session.

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OPTION 1

Can you stand on one leg for 60 seconds?

(Note – If it's too easy, you can take it up a notch! 'But can you stand on one leg for 60 seconds in a storm?' You could squirt them with a water pistol for rain, and direct a hairdryer, on a cooler setting, at them for wind.)



SESSION LINK

Jesus did many miracles like walking on the water [#Matthew14](#) and calming a storm [#Mark4](#)

NEED

Stop watch.

(Optional - water pistol and hairdryer.)



ICEBREAKERS cont.

Vic Verbatim (5minutes)

Similar to learning a memory verse, the idea is to practise saying a verse in an expressive way. The verse for this session is:

Cannonball option

'God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'



Romans 5.8 (NIV)

- Assign a 'Reverend Ref' who has the scripture verse to hand, to referee biblical accuracy!
- Give everyone 30 seconds to memorise the verse (you can use the slide for this session or find it on page 41 of *Six Beats One Story*). After the time is up, deliver the memory verse in one of the following ways:

'On the head-to-head, son'

– two people take quick-fire turns to say one word each, back and forth, until the verse is complete or a mistake is made

Han Solo/Lone ranger

– ask one person to share the Bible verse

'Let's circle back'

– go around the room quick-fire, one word each

.....



The six selfies in 60 seconds challenge

LEADERS NOTE

This icebreaker challenge is designed to get the young people to act out six key poses that capture this part of the story. The poses can also be reused in the 60-second sum-up at the end of the session.

Split the young people into six groups and provide paper and pens, as well as a props and costumes box with different items, relevant to this part of the Bible story. Tell the young people to make it fun and capture each part of the Bible story in either selfie poses or freeze frames. They can write clues to appear in the pictures too if they want.

Ready for the 60-second sum-up at the end of the session, they can take pictures of the poses to use in the slide show (choose six). Alternatively, they can perform their freeze frames live as you go through the sum-up.

**If you don't think this task is a great fit for your young people, leaders/church members could take pictures of themselves doing the selfie-poses in advance and surprise the young people with a fun slideshow in the 60-second sum-up at the end.*

'DO'

This is a selfie freeze frame challenge. In your groups, your mission is to capture the essence of the phrase you will be given in a selfie pose/freeze frame. You can use any props and costumes you like, and you can also write clues on the paper to add to your picture. As well as the prompt/phrase, there's also a clue/suggestion of what you could act out if you're stuck.

You have 60 seconds to create your selfie freeze frame. Time's up when you hear the klaxon.

.....

Suggested place names or phrases written on paper:

#400Years, #Bethlehem, #Jerusalem #Crucifixion

.....

Suggested props:

Nativity props/costumes, water bottle and empty wine bottle.

Note – generally encourage playfulness, but do ask the group to be respectful for the cross picture.

1. **400-year wait** – (e.g. board holding sign '400 years')
2. **The nativity scene**
3. **Good news** – (e.g. Jesus performing miracles like, turning water into wine)
4. **Palm leaves entry** – (e.g. ride a donkey, people putting coats on the floor, sign #Jerusalem)
5. **The cross** – (e.g. three people with arms out and heads bowed)
6. **Empty tomb** – (e.g. surprised, looking for Jesus but unable to find him, sign #TombEmpty?)

Couplet up

Out out the six **A** cards and the six **B** cards – give them a good shuffle and then spread them around the room (alternatively, divide the cards across the group).

‘DO’

There are 12 cards – six **A** cards and six **B** cards – each with a line from Dai’s ‘Messiah’ poem (or one half of a couplet). Together they sum up Beat 4 of the Bible story through spoken word, from Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem with animal roommates, to growing up telling stories and making miracles, to then dying on a cross and rising two days later.

#EmptyTomb #Matthew #Mark #Luke #John

Your mission is to match up the correct **A** card with the correct **B** card. Can you couple up the couplets? Can you find your mini poem’s perfect partner?

Hint from Dai

‘If you can’t find your poem pal, then listen now to me – listen out for rhyme, and listen to the story!’

LEADERS NOTE

Below are the answers of the coupled-up couplets, in order of the story. You can reveal the answers and order in one of two ways:

Cannonball option

Once they have matched **A** with **B** cards, ask them to stand in line in their couplets and, starting with **1A**, give the correct answers and rearrange themselves to reveal the Bible story in order.

Deep dive option

Below are the answers of the coupled-up couplets, in order of the story. After they have had a go at matching up, ask them to stand in the order they think it happened in the Bible story – from beginning to end. **Once in order, encourage the group to say the couplets together.**

1. **A** – The magnificent maker who made everything
B – Worshipped by shepherds, and gifts fit for a king
2. **A** – Jesus raised up Lazarus, though he lay in a casket!
B – He fed a stadium–full, with just one picnic basket ...
3. **A** – Then to Jerusalem riding a donkey
B – Passed over palm leaves, *Passover* to Gethsemane
4. **A** – From denial to trial, to beatings to Pilate
B – With crucifixion demands, Pilate swayed by the riot,
5. **A** – With one final cry out, sin’s curse is extinguished
B – As love laid out his arms he said ‘It. Is. Finished’
6. **A** – This may be the final chapter but there’s a sequel to the story
B – Because on the third day he resurrects to glory.

You’re a bit of a character

LEADERS NOTE

In this session, ask the group to read the clues and guess which Bible character they’re hinting at. Remind the group that these characters will only be from this section of the Bible story. In terms of delivery, think of a pub quiz set-up. This is best as a group activity (aim for three to four per group). You can use print-outs of the activity (one per group) or use the PowerPoint slides. Along with the clues, there is the option of giving multiple choice answers (see below). Encourage them to confer in their groups to come up with the answer. Once everyone’s ready, reveal the answer and the **‘Did you know?’** fact together.

‘DO’

Using the following clues, see if you can guess the Bible character from this beat of the story.

Character 1

- Clue 1** The greatest storyteller who has ever lived **#TEDTalk**
- Clue 2** He’d build stuff with his hands **#DIY #LoftConversion**
- Clue 3** Water he turned into wine **#Vintage**

Is it ... a. Peter b. James c. Mary d. Jesus

Answer: Jesus

Did you know? Jesus was into parties. His first miracle was turning bath water into the tastiest red wine at a wedding. The wedding hosts ran out. **#John2** Jesus once said, ‘before Abraham was, I AM’. This is the divine name of God – the same phrase God used when he met Moses in a burning bush. Joining the dots – Jesus is saying I AM that same God who met Moses in a bush and created the world! A huge claim, but if it’s true, it changes everything! **#John8.58**

Character 2

- Clue 1** Travelled to Bethlehem at Christmas **#DonkeyRide?**
- Clue 2** Good with farm animals **#OldMacDonald**
- Clue 3** Had a surprise visit **#DoAngelsDrinkTea**

Is it ... a. Mary b. Martha c. Esther d. Gabriel

Answer: Mary mother

Did you know After the angel Gabriel told her she’d give birth to God’s own son, she was so filled with joy she burst into song. **#Blessed**

Character 3

- Clue 1** Sometimes had a face like thunder **#SonOfThunder**
- Clue 2** The disciple Jesus loved most (according to himself!)
#YoureSoVainYouProbablyThinkThisSermonIsAboutYou
- Clue 3** A fisherman who was best mates with a carpenter
#TheOneJesusLoved

Is it ... a. James b. John c. Andrew d. Peter

Answer: John (Zebedee’s boy)

Did you know? He and his brother James were nicknamed ‘the sons of thunder’. John probably wrote the Gospel of John in the Bible, telling the story of Jesus’ life. He was one of Jesus’ best mates and wrote about many things he said and did, as he was often there when it happened **#JonnyJournal**

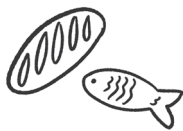
Character 4

- Clue 1** Keeps on top of the housework **#HostingAndHoovering**
- Clue 2** Did far more dishes than her sister Mary!
#MaryDidYouKnowTheDishwasherNeedsEmptying
- Clue 3** Saw a dead man walking **#Lazarus #Brother**

Is it ... a. Mary b. Elizabeth c. Martha d. Abigail

Answer: Martha

Did you know? Martha saw Jesus raise her brother Lazarus from the dead **#John11**



Spoken word (4 minutes)

THE POEM

Watch the 'Messiah' film, or read the poem aloud from pages 44–46 of the *Six Beats One Story* book.



Response

LEADERS NOTE

Depending on your group, you can ask them to engage in a reflective way or in an active way, with the following response options.

REFLECT

(The following questions can be discussed as a group or reflected on individually.)

What stood out to you, surprised you or confused you in the poem?

- What Bible characters can you remember from the poem? If you were telling this beat of the story, would you have mentioned different characters? (If so, why?)

ACTIVE RESPONSE (5 minutes)

- Sketch a three-frame cartoon strip to sum up the story of 'Messiah'
- Film yourself performing a ten-second rap of the 'Messiah' story
- Write a spoken word sum-up of the 'Messiah' story for socials *(try getting creative with hashtags)*
- Dai's example (slide optional): 'Enter magnificent maker of everything. Lived then laid the world's burdens on his shoulders. Crucified but the grave could not hold him. Jesus fully lives so we can fully live in him!' [#400YearWait](#) [#ItsFinished](#) [#EmptyTomb](#) [#BlindedByYourGrace](#)

REFLECTIVE RESPONSE (5 minutes)

- Listen to the audio of the poem or watch the video again
- Using emojis, how would you express the story and how it makes you feel?



SHARING IS CARING (2–3 minutes)

- Invite the young people to share what they've done

OUTRO

Summary of the Beat 4 'Messiah' story

LEADERS NOTE

Below is a summary of each part of the story in a 60-second recap of where we've been. You can read this out as a script or encourage some of the young people to perform it. The **60-second selfie challenge** can be revisited for this section to help bring each point to life in a playful and visually engaging way. These can be done as freeze frames performed live as you go through the story, or pictures you advance through that show on the screen.

Underneath the 60-second sum-up script is a taster for the next session.

In following sessions, these sum-ups can also be used to recap the previous session.

60-second sum-up script

1. **400-year wait** – 400 years and God's people are still waiting for the rescuer God promised them at the beginning. [#SerpentCrusher](#)
2. **Jesus arrives** – not as expected. A baby born in a barn in Bethlehem. [#BornInABarn](#)
3. **Good news** – Jesus came to bring good news and did the unbelievable – turned water to wine, told stories with spoilers about who God is, healed the sick, raised the dead, and claimed to be God's son – the serpent crusher, the one God promised to bear the burden of brokenness at the beginning.
4. **Palm-leaves entry into Jerusalem** – Jesus arrives in Jerusalem to fanfare from some and murder plots from others. One final supper together with his friends, then Judas betrays, Jesus prays, they arrest Jesus and Jewish leaders convince Pilate to deliver the verdict. [#Gethsemane](#)
5. **The cross** – Jesus on a cross, bearing the world's brokenness, he dies. [#DeathSentence](#) [#Crucifixion](#)
6. **The empty tomb** – two days later, the ultimate plot twist – Jesus resurrected. Beat death, paid the price, to repair the broken, restore the relationship status between people and God. [#FullOnForgiveness](#) [#BecauseHelsRisen](#)

Next session taster

Next week we'll explore Beat 5 of the Bible story, Spirit, featuring the Holy Spirit's entrance, to the birth of the Church, and a guy called Paul who went from Public Enemy Number One of the Church, to the Church's greatest champion. [#Pentecost](#) [#180](#) [#Judea](#) [#Samaria](#) [#EndsOfTheEarth](#)

LEADERS NOTE

Ask a volunteer to prepare to perform the spoken word poem 'Spirit' next session (alternatively, you can just play the video).

Pray

- Pray to close the session