

Jesus Fixes Things

The Easter Story



happyland Resource Booklet

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Mark 15 NIRV
Jesus Is Brought to
Pilate
Bible Gateway



Mark 16 NIRV - Jesus Rises
From the Dead - The Sabbath
Bible Gateway



Watch the animation for
Jesus Fixes Things



Watch the music video
for Jesus Fixes Things



Jesus Fixes Things

All Age Resource

Theme: Friendships

NB: Encourage people to bring a friend!



Song Play 'You've Got a Friend In Me' by Randy Newman (Toy Story theme tune) on entrance.

Connections: PowerPoint slide with famous friends on it (from different generations!) e.g., Famous 5, Pooh Bear and Christopher Robin, the Two Ronnies, Harry Potter, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, Peter Pan and Wendy, Buzz Lightyear and Woody, Ant and Dec, Bart Simpson and Millhouse, Peppa Pig and George, Rachel and Monica from 'Friends', etc.

Welcome and Introductions

Connections: Can you guess today's theme from the music and the pictures on screen?

Which of the friendships do you know about?

What helps these characters to be friends? (Take ideas, e.g. Harry, Ron and Hermione go to Hogwarts together, the Famous Five like going on adventures)

Have any of these famous friends ever fallen out and 'broken friends'?

Introduce Theme

As you might have guessed, today we're thinking about friendship. Making friends, breaking friends, and how God wants to be our friend too.

We're going to hear about how God made the world and wanted to be friends with us, but people wanted to do their own thing. So, the world got broken and so did friendship between people and God. We'll find out God's plan to fix everything, so we can make friends again.

Opening Prayer

Father God, thank you that you made the world and everything in it, including us.

Thank you that you made us to be friends with each other and with you.

We're sorry for the times we mess things up, like falling out with friends.

Thank you that you are great at fixing things, including friendships.

Be with us now as we explore how you fixed the world so we can be your friend.

Amen



Song

So Amazing God

Gill Hutchinson

[\(117\) So amazing God by Gill Hutchinson - YouTube](#)

Activity: Making and Breaking Friends

Hand out paperchain people. On each paperchain person, draw a friend's face and write their name underneath.

Why are these people your friends? E.g., kind, fun, caring, like to play together. Add these words onto the paperchain friends.

Invite people to talk in groups about their friendships, perhaps those who have come with friends. How did you become friends? What do you enjoy doing together? Have you ever fallen out and not been friends? What happened? How did you fix things and make friends again? (You might want to prime a few people beforehand to be interviewed.)

Bonus Activity: Up & Down Friends

Invite people to stand up/sit down if you think the following things make a good/bad friend. Someone who...

- Is kind
- Shares things with you
- Chats for hours and hours
- Sits quietly with you, without any need for chatting
- Is mean
- Is good at making you laugh
- Likes to cook really spicy food
- Steals your things
- Looks after you
- Snorts when they laugh
- Does fun things with you
- Calls you names
- Likes to help you out with your washing up
- Talks to you
- Listens to you
- Leaves you out
- Is interested in the same things as you



Point: Having friends is great! It's important to have people who care, listen, talk and play with you. But sometimes we can get things wrong with our friends too, upsetting them or feeling upset by them. Sometimes we break friends, and fall out with each other.

Confession

Our friendship with God can break too. God created each of us wonderfully and deliberately, but we're not perfect – God is the only one in the whole universe who is perfect! All the mistakes we make, and bad choices we choose, get in the way of us being friends with God. It's how the world gets broken and messy, how our friendships get broken and why all of us and the world needs fixing.

But how? Well, it's a really good idea to say sorry to each other and God. When we say sorry, we aren't just saying sorry for the messy things we've done wrong – maybe when we've been cross or shouted angry words. We're saying sorry for our imperfect, wrong choices that get in the way of us being friends with God.

NB: This confession involves mimed actions

1. Gently mime washing eyes

We're sorry God for the things people see us do, or the things we see other people do that are wrong and mess up your world and our friendships.

2. Mime washing ears

We're sorry God for the things we hear, or other people hear us say that are wrong and mess up your world and our friendships.

3. Mime washing mouth

We're sorry God for the things we say that are wrong and mess up your world and our friendships.

4. Mime washing mind

We're sorry God for the things we think that are wrong and mess up your world and our friendships.

5. Mime washing heart

We're sorry God for the things we feel that are wrong and mess up your world and our friendships.

6. Mime washing hands

We're sorry God for the things we do that are wrong and mess up your world and our friendships.

7. Invite people to give their hands a shake and to hold them out open in front of them

Father God, please make us clean and help us to live clean lives for you in your world. Amen.





Song

God Loves You and You and You

Chris Kipling

[God Loves You And You And You - Elevation Kids Lyrics](#)

<https://youtu.be/NmrGmkj0jDk?t=39>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxhmElt67TI>

Bible Story

This story is from 2000 years ago, and we learn all about it in the Bible. Lots and lots of years after God had created the world, and after humans kept breaking friends with God, it was time for the next part of God's big plan to fix things...



Animation

Watch Happyland 'Jesus Fixes Things'

[Jesus Fixes Things \[Official Animation\] Hope Together - YouTube](#)

NB: If you want to supplement the animation with a reading, we suggest using a children's translation of the Bible, e.g. 'The Lion Storyteller Bible'.



Song

Good News Vineyard Music

[\(68\) GOOD NEWS \[Official Lyric Video\] | Vineyard Kids - YouTube](#)

Talk

Adapt these points to suit, but encourage conversation, with those in the congregation chatting and responding together.

- We've heard this morning about friendships, including famous ones (share examples). Friendships are a good thing, and friends can make us happy. But we've also heard that when friendships go wrong and "break" it can make us sad or angry.
- We are made for friendship. God designed each of us to be friends... with each other, and with him. That was God's plan right from the very start, when he made the world.
- He knew people would 'break' friends with him. He knew our bad choices, distractions and messy mistakes would get in the way. But our wrong choices broke the world and our friendship with God...uh oh! Thankfully God isn't put off by our bad choices.
- In fact, God still gave people a choice, because real friendship – real love – is a choice. God didn't make us robots who just do what they're programmed to do. He doesn't force anybody to be his friend, but he did have a plan to fix things...
- God washed the world (story of Noah), sent rules to help people live (Moses), sent messages and messengers (Daniel, David, Isaiah) but on their own, this wasn't enough.

- Then 2,000 years ago, it was time for God to send his Son, Jesus to earth! Jesus the rescuer showed people what God the maker is like, as well as his friendship and how to live in a good, kind and right way.
- But people wanted to break friends with Jesus too. Even his special friends got scared and ran away when the cross rulers came to kill him.
- One of his 12 special friends, Judas, broke friendship by betraying him. Judas told the rulers where to find Jesus so they could arrest him.
- Jesus knew this was going to happen, yet he still showed how much he loves us by letting people do these things.
- The rulers were so angry with Jesus, they put him on a wooden cross.
- Jesus allowed them to kill him because he knew God's big plan. He chose not to give up when it got tough, but to forgive them all – the rulers, his friends, and each of us today for all the bad choices and messy mistakes we make. He's ready and waiting when we say sorry.
- And guess what? 3 days later, Father God showed how amazing and powerful he is and brought his Son, Jesus back to LIFE! Not just as a spirit or ghost, not as a zombie, not even a clever trick – God brought Jesus' dead body back to life - breathing, talking, and eating!
- Through this, Jesus was fixing absolutely everyone and everything.
- For forty days he spent time with his friends again, fixing their friendship with him and explaining that God's big plan was to send the Holy Spirit to be with us. Jesus gave his friends, and us, an exciting mission to carry on telling people about God's big plan and the invitation to make friends with God again.
- Then Jesus went back to heaven!
- Even though the world still looks broken today – people get ill, sad things happen, we break friends and make wrong choices... God's big plan is well under way:

Millions of people have made friends with God; Jesus heals broken things and people; the Holy Spirit helps us live our lives and helps us to tell the true story about Jesus, so even more people can make friends with God.

- So, whenever you or I mess up, we can say sorry to God and he forgives us. He will always make friends with us again if we choose this, because he loves us.
- And one day God has promised that Jesus will come back and complete everything. The world, and everyone in it, will be completely fixed, being made brand new. The world will be perfect again! It will be VERY, VERY GOOD! Everyone who is Jesus' friend will live together, with God... FOREVER!
- That's something very, very good to celebrate now, as we sing a song together...



Song

Jesus Fixes Things

[Jesus Fixes Things \[Official Action Video\] Hope Together - YouTube](#)

Prayer Activity 1: Hearts of Love

A long time before Jesus was born, God knew what his plan would be to help us make friends with him again and fix the broken world. This is what he told his friend Jeremiah:

'They will be my people and I will be their God' (Jeremiah 32:38).

God promised that he would give people a new heart of love for him and the world. People will really, REALLY want to love God and the world around them.

Invite people to write prayers on paper in the shape of hearts. On the 'broken' side, write down things they are sorry for, wrong choices they've made that breaks friendship with God, friendship with others, and the world.

On the other side, write a response to God's invitation to be their friend.

Put a cross at the front of church, for those who want to come and place their heart prayers at the foot of the cross.



Prayer Activity 2: Playdough Hearts

Give everyone a lump of playdough

Ask them to mould it into:

- Something about the broken world that makes them sad
- A wrong choice they have made recently that they are sorry for
- A friendship that needs fixing

God promised that he would give people a new heart of love for him and the world. People will really, REALLY want to love God and the world around them. God can remould and shape us just like we can with this playdough.

Can they make a love heart? Invite them to hold their heart out to God if they want to choose to make friends with God.

Dear Jesus,
I'm sorry for the wrong things I do that break friends with you.
Thank you that you came to fix the broken world.
Thank you that you love the world so much you died on the cross to fix it.
Thank you that you want to make friends with me.
Yes, please! I want to be your friend.
Amen



Song **Big Family of God** **Nick and Becky Drake**

[\(117\) Big Family Of God \(Official Lyric Video\) - Nick & Becky Drake // Worship For Everyone - YouTube](#)

Blessing

In John chapter 3 verse 16 it says God loved the world so much that he sent his son Jesus so that we can be forever friends with God.

Father God, may we know right now how much you love us and want to be our friend.

Please fill us with love for you, the world you made and people in it.

Help us to be your friend and join you in fixing what is broken.

Amen

Possible Extra Songs

Great Big God **Vineyard Music**

[\(117\) Our God is a Great Big God Video with lyrics - YouTube](#)

Bigger Than Big **Jay Stocker**

[\(117\) Bigger than Big - YouTube](#) Or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUU-6LD1D_0

O Praise The Name (Anastasis) **Hillsong**

[\(68\) O Praise The Name \(Anástasis\) Lyric Video - Hillsong Worship - YouTube](#)

Yet Not I **City Alight**

[\(68\) CityAlight ~ Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me \(Lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

Amazing Grace **Chris Tomlin**

[\(68\) Amazing Grace \(My Chains are Gone\) - Chris Tomlin \(with lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

Because He Lives **Celtic Worship**

[\(68\) Because He Lives \(Official Music Video\) | Celtic Worship - YouTube](#)

The Power of The Cross **Keith and Kirstyn Getty**

[\(68\) The Power of the Cross \(Official Lyric Video\) - Keith & Kristyn Getty - YouTube](#)

