

In-between Times

Jesus' Resurrection to Ascension



happyland

Resource Booklet

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Illustration by Jessica Littlewood



*"Go and tell the world all about
God's love and how everyone
can be friends with him."*



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In-between Times

All Age Resource

Theme: Telling the Time in God's Big Story

NB: Encourage people to bring a friend!



Song Choose one or two songs to play on entrance:

- Time After Time (Cindi Lauper)
- The Dock of the Bay (Otis Redding)
- Patience (Take That)
- I Knew You Were Waiting (Aretha Franklin & George Michael)

Invite people to think of their favourite time of the day / year.

Connections: PowerPoint slide with pictures of different times of the day / year, e.g. breakfast time, bedtime, playtime, Christmas time, spring, autumn.

Welcome and Introductions

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

They are all about time.

Who can tell the time? What do you use to tell the time? How many different ways of telling the time can you think of?

Introduce Theme

We're thinking about time in God's Big Story which we find in the Bible. We might find telling the time tricky, but we don't need a watch to tell the time in the Bible. We're going to hear about how time is told in the Bible by what Jesus is doing.

Time before Jesus, God made the world and wanted us to be friends, but people wanted to do their own thing. The world got broken and so did friendship between people and God. God had a plan to fix the world which was Jesus.

Time when God sent Jesus to rescue the broken world and he was alive on earth.

Time when Jesus died on a cross and was dead for 3 days.

Time when Jesus came back to life and hung out with his friends again before he went back to heaven.

Time after Jesus went back to heaven and before he comes again to fix what's broken forever.

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.

Thank you that you are fixing things through Jesus.

Be with us now as we explore how you will tell the time.

Help us as we wait in between times

Amen



Song

Oh Wow! (Awesome God)

Pete James & Harvey Jessop

[Oh Wow! \(Awesome God\) - Cheeky Pandas - YouTube](#)

Activity: Telling the Time

On the screen, show a clock face and explain that the points on the clock face represent the times as follows:

O'clock (12): Before Jesus

Quarter past (3): When Jesus was Alive

Half past (6): After Jesus came back to life

Quarter to (9): After Jesus went back to heaven

Ask everyone to imagine that this clock is now lying on the church floor and that these points on the clock face can be related to places in the church building – front, back and either side.

Read out the list of times in the Bible, below, and invite people to move to the appropriate area of the church to show what time it is.

God's Big Story Times

- God makes the world
- Jesus makes 12 friends
- Jesus meets his friend Mary in a garden
- Paul and his friends go on lots of journeys
- Noah sails his boat
- Jesus and his friends have breakfast on a beach
- Jesus is born
- A man called Paul meets Jesus
- Jesus asks his friend Thomas to touch his hands
- Jonah is swallowed by a big fish



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.

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.

3. Mime washing mouth

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

4. Mime washing mind

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

5. Mime washing heart

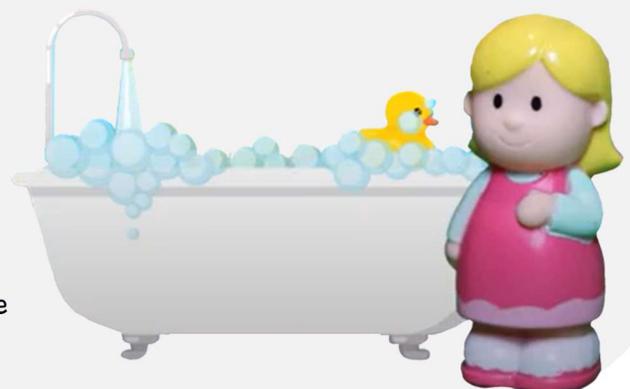
We're sorry God for the things we feel that are wrong and mess up your world.

6. Mime washing hands

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

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 the Bible. It tells us what happened after Jesus had died and came back to life again.

Animation Watch Happyland 'Happy Ever After'



Find the animation on the God's Big Story Playlist here:

[Talking Toddlers God's Big Story – YouTube](#)

NB: If you want to supplement the animation with a reading, we suggest using a children's translation of the Bible story such as The Bible Society's book; 'an Awesome Easter Surprise.'



Song

Easter Doesn't Stop Engage Worship

[Easter Doesn't Stop – Actions – Engage Worship - YouTube](#)

Talk

Invite people to talk about their favourite time of the day or perhaps their favourite time of the year. What happens at this time? Why do you like it so much? (You may want to prime a few people beforehand to be interviewed).

You could use the notes below as the basis for a talk, or you could put headings on pieces of paper and invite people to put them in the right order 'to tell the time' e.g. down the middle of your room.

- Time...we might love it or hate it; we might have too much or too little of it. We might tell the time in numbers with a watch, or by what we are doing. But it's quite a strange idea to get our heads around. We can't see time, only what we do with it!
- Today, we're thinking about in between times; but first, lets remind ourselves of what has happened to lead to this point.
- This isn't what the world was supposed to be like when God made it. At the beginning of time when God made the world, it was good, everything was good.

- BUT God gave people the choice of being friends with him or not...and people chose not to. We chose to turn away from God, to not put him first and our wrong choices broke the world and our friendship with God.
- The video we watched showed us that God needed a plan to fix things. Before the time when God sent Jesus, he washed the world (story of Noah), he sent rules to help people live...we know these as the ten commandments (story of Moses), he sent messages and messengers (Daniel, David) but none of these ways worked. In the end God had to send himself! (Jesus)
- Then came the time when God sent his Son, Jesus. Jesus the rescuer showed people what God is like. The world needed to be fixed with love and that's what Jesus the rescuer did.
- Jesus the rescuer showed people the way to live, but some mean leaders were cross with Jesus. They thought he was lying about being God's Son, so they put him on a wooden cross to die.
- BUT... this was part of God's plan! Jesus died on the cross as a way of fixing absolutely everyone and everything! Often when we do the wrong thing, we must do something to show we are sorry and make things right. Maybe we lose screen time, get told off, or our friends won't play with us. It's the same with God, except that we don't need to do anything. Jesus died on the cross so that we don't need to. Jesus died to deal with all the wrong things we do because he loves us and wants to be our friend. This is the time when Jesus died and was in a tomb for 3 days.
- Next came the time when Jesus came back to life. God showed how amazing and powerful he is by bringing Jesus back to life again, all because he loves the world and everyone in it!
- This was an in-between time; it was in between Jesus coming back to life and going back to Father God in heaven.
- Then came the time for Jesus to say goodbye to his friends and go back to Father God in heaven. But he promised that another time will come.
- The world still looks and is broken but...one day there will be a time when Jesus will come back to earth and finish all the fixing. God has promised that one day the world will be like new. It will be perfect again.
- So right now, is an in between time. We are in between Jesus going back to God in heaven and Jesus coming again to finish all the fixing.
- Waiting in an in between time is hard, but the good news is; we don't have to wait. When Jesus went back to Father God in heaven, he sent his special helper the Holy Spirit to help us. Anyone who is Jesus' friend has the Holy Spirit special helper to help them. The Holy Spirit helper helps us to begin fixing the world by loving people as God loves them. The world won't be completely fixed until Jesus comes back but we have an in between time job to do!
- So what time is it for you? Is it time to find out a bit more about Jesus? Is it time to become Jesus' friend and get the Holy Spirit special helper to help you live in these in between times as we wait for Jesus to come back?



Song

In between Time Song

Find the accompanying song, lyrics and book here: [Hope Together : God's Big Story Resources](#)

Prayer Activity: Times This Week

We said at the start that God tells the time by what Jesus is doing. We're going to think of some things we might be doing this week and ask Jesus to be with us in those times.

You could lead the prayers, giving time for people to think of their responses either in their heads or by talking to those around them.

- When we are at work/school/nursery
- When we are playing
- When we are with our friends or family
- When we are travelling
- When we are sleeping



Finish with the Lord's Prayer and then the prayer from the 'Happy Ever After' book below:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread,

And forgive us our sins.

As we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.

Now and forever,

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.
Give us the Holy Spirit special helper to be with us as we wait for Jesus to come back.
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](#)

