

Seniors

IS JESUS WHO HE SAYS HE IS?



GET INTO
THE BIBLE



20 MINUTES



IN THE
CUPBOARD

AIM

An opportunity to consider who Jesus was and what he means for our lives.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Is Jesus Who He Says He Is Activity Sheet
- Pens & Paper

GET INTO THE BIBLE: IS JESUS WHO HE SAYS HE IS?

THEME: DEVELOPING MY FAITH



PREPARATION

Full instructions and a step-by-step guide can be found on the 'Is Jesus Who He Says He Is?' activity sheet. A copy should be available to work through the activity. Some paper and pens will also be needed to help create some probability signs.



Download 'Is Jesus Who He Says He Is?' Activity Sheet



GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

This activity will give you the opportunity to explore some big questions and debate with each other exactly what you think about different topics. Full instructions can be found on the downloadable activity sheet. A summary of the activity is below.

- 1 Probability Line:** Create a probability line using words such as certain, unlikely, maybe, probable, impossible etc. Spread these words out along the length of the meeting space to create a probability line featuring a range of words. As a group decide which word goes where?
- 2 Probability Statements:** Go through some of our statements or create statements of your own. Each statement questions the probability of an event or situation, with those taking part challenged with considering the probability and standing on the probability line that best matches their thoughts. After each statement, as a group discuss what you each think and why you've placed yourself where on the line. Examples of statements include:
 - Is there life on other planets?
 - A home nation will win the next football World Cup.
 - I'll pass my driving test before I'm 19.
- 3 Is Jesus Who He Says He Is?** The final two statements look at the probability Jesus was real and then the probability that Jesus is who he says he is... the Son of God. After each statement you are again encouraged to talk about and discuss what you think and where you stand on the probability line. Discussion should be open and honest.

Being a Christian is about exploring big questions, finding out more, putting our faith into action and developing a relationship with God. Very few things in life are 100% certain, but it's up to us to decide what we do or don't believe in and what we are going to do about it.



NOTE TO LEADERS

This activity is about giving young people an opportunity to think about, question and discuss their faith. Create an environment where young people are confident to talk openly and honestly.



KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

Some individuals may be more open to discussing certain topics (particularly their faith) than others. Be sensitive to this. Encourage, but don't force, individuals to share and open up.

IS JESUS WHO HE SAYS HE IS?

- 1) Write the following words linked to probability on individual cards. IMPOSSIBLE, CERTAIN, LIKELY, UNLIKELY, MAYBE, PROBABLE, EXTREMELY UNLIKELY, POSSIBLE, VERY UNLIKELY
- 2) Arrange the words in order of likelihood. Have a discussion and make sure as a group you are happy with the order of the words. Now spread these words out across the length of the room to create a scale. So for example certain & very likely will be at one end, maybe might go in the middle and very unlikely & impossible at the other end of the room.
- 3) When the probability words have been arranged start reading out the below statements. You can use these ones or add your own.
 - There is life on other planets
 - There is a monster in Loch Ness
 - I'm going to be a millionaire
 - England / Wales / Scotland / NI will win the next Football World Cup
 - I will learn to drive before I'm 19
 - Humans will walk on Mars in my lifetime
- 4) After each statement everyone should place themselves on the probability line which best matches their thoughts. There will be differences of opinion and there are no right/wrong answers for some. Some people may think that it's almost certain that there's life on other planets, whilst others may be less convinced. Ardent football fans may place the likelihood of a World Cup win much higher than a sane, rational person. Ensure there is lots of chat and laughs.
- 5) Read out this next statement 'JESUS WAS A REAL PERSON'. Where does everyone stand on the probability line now?

We can be as certain about this as about other figures from 2000 years ago. There are references to Jesus outside the New Testament; the historian Tacitus makes reference to him in his writings of AD 64.
- 6) Finally the last statement is 'JESUS IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS, THE SON OF GOD'. For this question either find a place on the probability line, or ask it as a rhetorical question for people to think about but not publicly respond to – whichever the group is more comfortable with. If anyone is willing to share where they stand, invite them to do so. It's vital that people's views are respected and no one is afraid to say what they think (for either side of the argument).
- 7) What we believe about Jesus is very personal to each individual. Our belief and faith will vary massively depending on a whole range of things. Furthermore, our answer to that question may change depending on things that happen to us in life and what we are going through currently. Being a Christian is about exploring this big question, finding out more, putting our faith into action and developing a relationship with God. Very few things in life are 100% certain, but it's up to us to decide what we do or don't believe in and what we are going to do about it.

Is being a Christian going to be easy? – Unlikely.

What if God isn't interested in me? I'm nothing special – Impossible!

Is God going to be there, no matter what? – 100% Certain.

Note for Leaders: This activity is about giving young people an opportunity to think about, question and discuss their faith. Challenging young people to consider what they think about Jesus is really important and something we can often shy away from. Create an environment where young people are confident to talk openly, are able to question things and are comfortable sharing what they are or aren't sure about.